

2711552

Registered provider: Birmingham Children's Trust Community Interest Company

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by Birmingham Children's Trust and provides short-term and emergency care for up to three children who may have experienced social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered since December 2022. He holds a relevant level 5 qualification.

There is one child living in the home.

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 October 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 9 May 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/05/2023	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have positive experiences of moving into and out of the home, even in emergency situations. Staff ensure that children feel welcome. This helps children to adapt to their new home and to settle in well. When the manager feels children's needs are not being met, action is taken to help the child move to a more suitable home. Staff celebrate the child's time at the home with them before they leave.

Staff provide unwavering care and support. They understand children's individual complexities. Children's care plans are clear and are regularly updated to address any emerging needs. As a result, staff deliver care that is centred around the child. A staff member said, 'We have a common goal to look after children. The commitment is there. We have built some good relationships with the children.'

The child likes living at the home and has built strong bonds with staff and the manager. Staff listen to the child and act on their wishes. However, staff do not always record these discussions. For example, the child had asked staff to move some of his belongings as there was not enough storage space in his bedroom. Although the staff had acted on the child's wishes, there was no record to evidence this. This does not highlight the efforts staff make to support the child's requests.

Staff are dedicated to helping the child get the best from his education. Where there are barriers to learning, the manager works in partnership with the school and attends meetings to discuss concerns. A teacher said, 'School is very challenging for him. It is important to work together through professionals' meetings, to try and work out how to best support him.'

Staff support the child to attend routine health appointments. Additionally, staff provide well-balanced meals and encourage the child to stay fit and well. As a result, the child is in good health.

Staff ensure that the child stays connected with their family. During the inspection, the child told the inspector about plans to see their mother and brother. Helping the child to maintain relationships ensures that important bonds are strengthened.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Staff understand the child's presenting risks. When incidents happen, staff take appropriate action to protect the child from harm. Staff use de-escalation techniques to manage behaviour. Physical restraint is only used as a last resort by trained staff. As a result, the child is learning to manage their emotions and channel their aggression positively.

When the child goes missing from the home, staff do all they can to ensure that the child returns home safely. Staff follow the missing-from-home protocol and work in

partnership with the police to return the child home safely. As a result, episodes of missing from care are reducing.

The child understands the fire procedure and knows what to do in the event of a fire evacuation. Regular fire drills monitor the effectiveness of the procedure. However, the fire procedure is not clear about where keys to the fire exit doors are kept. This has the potential to delay exit from the home.

A staff member took immediate action to prevent a child from starting a fire in the home. Although this incident was managed well, the manager did not inform the regulator. This hinders the external oversight of the operation of the home.

Staff offer praise and reward to the child for his positive contribution. Consequences are fair and proportionate. For example, staff removed the child's television as a consequence of his disruptive behaviour. As a result, the child is learning how his actions have consequences.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

A suitably qualified registered manager manages the home. A suitably qualified deputy manager supports him. They are enthusiastic and driven to help children achieve their best.

The leaders and managers know the strengths and development areas of the service. They know what progress children make because they spend quality time with the children and monitor the effectiveness of the service. This ensures that managers remain up to date about the quality care being delivered and what this feels like for the child.

Staff are provided with regular, good-quality supervision and training. Additionally, staff have the opportunity to seek ad hoc supervision in between planned sessions. This gives staff the chance to raise any developments or concerns that they may have about children's care.

Partnership working is a strength of the home. Professionals acknowledge the good work of the managers. A social worker said, 'I found the managers at the home to be very committed to work alongside the social work team. Despite being in the placement for a very short time, [name of child] felt safe enough to share his vulnerability and feelings. The team provided him with nurture and advocated on his behalf seeking therapy. This is significant given [name of the child] trauma, loss and complex emotional needs.'

The manager has met the four requirements raised at the previous inspection. Two requirements and one recommendation have been raised at this inspection.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must— take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of suitable fire equipment in the children's home; provide adequate means of escape from the home in the event of fire. (Regulation 25 (1)(a)(b)) This specifically relates to procedures for escaping from the fire exits.	24 November 2023
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e)) This specifically relates to notifying the regulator of incidents of fire starting.	24 November 2023

Recommendation

- The registered provider should ensure that staff respond to children's views, when discussing at the admission stage, where the children would prefer their belongings to be stored if there is insufficient space in their bedroom. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 14.10)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of

the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2711552

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Birmingham Children's Trust Community Interest Company

Registered provider address: 1 Avenue Road, Aston, Birmingham B6 4DU

Responsible individual: Melanie Page

Registered manager: Samuel Walker

Inspector

Michelle Spruce, Social Care Inspector

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