

2737107

Registered provider: Young Options Group Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides medium- and long-term care for up to two children aged between 11 and 18 years who have complex needs and are experiencing, or at risk of, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

The home was registered with Ofsted on 4 September 2023. The home's manager has been in post since July 2024 and is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 18 March 2025

Date of last inspection: not previously inspected

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not find any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care and protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The home has not had a previous full inspection. An assurance inspection was completed in September 2023. The service was suspended following that inspection. Monitoring visits were carried out to monitor suspension of the service. The suspension has expired.

The one child who has lived at the home since the expiry of the suspension notice moved in one week before this inspection. The staff provide the high level of staffing that the child requires. The provision of waking night and sleep-in staff ensures that the child has care and support at all hours.

Staff are beginning to build a relationship with the child. They spend time with the child and provide activities such as cooking and baking that help to develop trust. The staff helped the child settle in and continue to develop positive interactions with the child.

The child currently living in the home, and children that the service will offer a place to, have high support needs. Staff receive a good level of training to meet the specific needs of the child living in the home. Most of the staff have received therapeutic training and there are plans for the remaining staff to receive this training. All staff have received, or are scheduled to have, training around working with children with neurodiversity and learning disabilities.

A suitably detailed placement plan is in place for the child. It covers all relevant areas to ensure a positive and meaningful experience. Staff are working with the child to promote a healthy daily routine that supports a return to education and/or employment. For example, there are limitations on the use of the Wi-Fi, which is not accessible after a certain time. This is to support a night settling routine.

The staff are working towards meeting all the child's needs. Staff recognise the need for social interaction and continued friendships. They support the child with this through ensuring they learn about the area in which they now live. This includes how to maintain contact with their friends.

The staff are promoting positive mental health through maintaining a relationship with the child's child and adolescent mental health services. The manager and placing authority are working together to register the child with local healthcare services.

Staff have begun to support the child's education. Planned conversations with the child and others show plans to access college and an apprenticeship. Staff have supported an enquiry for an apprenticeship at a local store. This has helped the child to see staff investment in them.

The staff have provided the child with many opportunities through planned and unplanned conversations to express their views, wishes and feelings. Staff are responsive to these views. The child knows how to make a complaint should they feel the need to.

Staff understand the risks that the child is subject to. A detailed and well-structured risk assessment is in place. This helps staff manage the risks and work with the child around these. Staff are vigilant to online risks. They can track social media use as well as prevent access to certain applications when required.

Staff know what to do should a child go missing. Staff have received training and guidance to manage these situations, and a detailed protocol is in place. A detailed assessment around unsupervised time helps the child to know staff expectations of them.

Staff received training in managing challenging situations and unsafe behaviours. Most staff have experience of working with children who display behaviours that challenge. Staff recognise the vulnerability of the child and understand that they require a firm but fair approach to rebuild their self-esteem and self-worth.

Since the last inspection, the manager has ensured improvement in the recruitment processes for new staff. They have employed experienced staff who can work with children with complex behaviours.

Leaders and managers recognise the importance of working together in the interests of the child. They work well in partnership with the placing authority of the child. Any incidents are notified to the child's social worker immediately.

The manager has been in post since July 2024 and applied to register with Ofsted in August 2024. The responsible individual has recently left. The new director is currently seeking a replacement.

Leaders and managers have responded effectively to the requirement made at the home's last inspection. No requirements or recommendations were set at this inspection.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2737107

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Young Options Group Ltd

Registered provider address: 1 Park Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 4AS

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Vevene Muhammad, Social Care Inspector

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