

2739386

Registered provider: Brighter Horizon Homes Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to three children with learning difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in September 2023. The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2024 and is suitably qualified.

There were two children living in the home at the time of this inspection. Both were spoken to by the inspector.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 December 2024

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: 19 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/03/2024	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is warm and welcoming. It is furnished and decorated to a good standard. The children have their own bedrooms and bathrooms, that are clean and tidy. Photos and artwork that the children have created are on display in communal areas. This contributes to the children having a sense of belonging.

Staff encourage and help children to develop trusting relationships with them. They encourage children to share their views and support them in making decisions. Children confidently tell staff when they are unhappy or upset. This helps staff to support children to manage their feelings around certain issues, such as things that happen in school.

Since the last inspection, children have made good progress in education. Both children now attend mainstream schools that meet their individual needs. Staff work with the school to help children reach their full potential.

Staff encourage children to socialise with each other at mealtimes. They plan meals and set dinner times. The children also do activities such as swimming and attend the local youth group together. This encourages children to bond and form positive relationships with each other.

Staff encourage children to learn independence skills. They guide them in tidying their bedrooms by putting away toys, books and clothes in the right places. The children assist staff in doing their own laundry and sometimes help prepare dinner.

Leaders and managers create a culture that celebrates every child's success. They display medals and trophies. Staff use encouraging words with the children. Children are modelling this behaviour and developing positive communication skills that they are learning from the staff.

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

Children's risk assessments identify triggers for risky behaviour. This supports staff to know what action to take to manage risks. Staff know the children well and can quickly identify when children are getting upset and how to support them to calm. There has been a decrease in incidents for children since the last inspection.

Leaders and managers have ensured that staff use approaches that support children to reduce risks of harm. One child who was subject to a deprivation of liberty order has been supported and now no longer has restrictions in place.

Leaders and managers equip the team with essential tools and resources. Together, they create a structure in which children thrive, with predictable routines and clear

expectations. Children are able to negotiate with staff so that practices are not rigid and allow the child to develop their confidence and have a sense of being heard.

Physical intervention in the home is rare. When children's behaviour is not appropriate, children have the opportunity to discuss this in key-work sessions after incidents. Leaders and managers are building a culture for staff to develop professional curiosity in relation to children's behaviour and to learn from incidents to ensure change happens to prevent incidents.

Staff induction includes vital safeguarding training. All staff receive ongoing tailored training such as safeguarding children with learning difficulties. This enhances staff's knowledge, to address the unique needs of the children in the home. Staff said that training has helped them in their approach, boosted children's safety and given them the skills needed in their roles.

Leaders and managers have taken children's needs into account when assessing a child's suitability for the home. However, they have not considered how the restrictions placed on one child could impact the child already living there. Furthermore, that child's social worker was not informed and therefore missed the chance to consider the impact it would have on them.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The newly registered manager has ambitions and sets high expectations for the quality of care for children. Morale among staff is high and they want to help the children to make good progress and succeed. Staff enjoy coming to work and feel supported in their professional development.

Leaders, managers and the staff team all know the children well. They speak of them with empathy and warmth. Staff enjoy the children's company.

Leaders and managers ensure that staff receive comprehensive inductions to support them in their roles. They also provide a probation period, regular supervision and appraisals. The systems in place support staff as they develop and evaluate their practice. This helps them work effectively and meet the children's needs.

Leaders and managers oversee the home, holding monthly reviews with senior leaders. The registered manager has developed tools to help with this oversight. The tools enable leaders and managers to identify any gaps in practice and also what is working well in the home.

External professionals and parents praised the staff. They said that the staff want the best for the children and always try their hardest. The children's social workers said the children have made good progress, have settled in well and are enjoying life in the home.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)

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: 2739386

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Brighter Horizon Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: International House, 109-111 Fulham Palace Road,
London W6 8JA

Responsible individual: Keith Riley

Registered manager: Allen Mukuwa

Inspector

Jo Tarbie, Social Care Inspector

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