

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.

There were two children living in the home at the time of this inspection.

The home registered with Ofsted in September 2023. There has been no registered manager since 27 December 2023. The appointed manager has not yet submitted a full application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 19 and 20 March 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: not applicable

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive good-quality individualised care from staff who understand their individual needs and vulnerabilities. Children develop trusting relationships with staff and each other. Children's plans and records are child-centred and detailed and reflect the child's individual support needs and personalities well.

Children make good progress from their individual starting points. Their achievements include increased social and personal care skills, budgeting guidance and cooking skills, which help children to grow in confidence and become more independent.

Children's education needs are well met. Staff are working hard with the virtual school to ensure that a child who is waiting for a school place is completing schoolwork daily.

Children are happy. They play together, take part in fun activities such as karaoke, baking, arts and crafts and swimming. Children share their views at house meetings, which are arranged on a regular basis. These are opportunities for children to suggest and plan daily activities and meal plans alongside staff. Children are encouraged to make their views known, to reflect on their day and share any worries and successes that they have had.

Staff support the children to develop social and emotional skills through planned key-work sessions or ad hoc 'children's chats' with staff. These sessions are handled sensitively by staff and are pitched at the level of the child's understanding.

Staff use social stories and pictorial prompts to help children to communicate. One child's understanding of their own social vulnerabilities has significantly increased with the successful use of a pictorial story, which has reduced the risks that they face. The child's social worker said that the child now talks about personal space and 'arm's length' as being a good indication of keeping an appropriate distance from someone that they do not know.

Staff respect children's cultural and religious preferences and ensure that children can access activities and interests that are meaningful for them.

Staff help children to maintain positive and safe relationships with the people who are important to them.

The home is well furnished and decorated. Children's rooms are spacious, tidy and clean and children can personalise their bedrooms. However, the back garden could be improved to be more child focused with the addition of play equipment and seating.

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

Staff understand children's risks well. They identify patterns of behaviour and know if there is an increased risk to children. This is reflected in children's individual behaviour management plans, which help staff to manage situations safely. Staff are attuned to the children's behaviours and can recognise behavioural triggers early, which reduces children's anxieties and helps them to settle at the home.

Staff are trained in de-escalation techniques and have been successful in using these. Physical intervention is rare. On the occasion that a physical hold was used, it was a proportionate measure to safeguard the child. However, the recording of the incident could be improved.

Incidents are managed well with effective and appropriate action taken in response to these with management oversight recorded.

Key-work sessions are held with children to address incidents of concern. The managers and staff work collaboratively with other agencies and partners in response to any safeguarding concerns. This ensures that information is shared and that a holistic approach and plan of support can be agreed to promote the child's welfare and well-being. However, reporting of these incidents to Ofsted should be timelier.

Managers take allegations and safeguarding matters seriously. They follow the home's safeguarding procedures, and their responses to any concerns are thorough.

Staff complete safeguarding training during their induction and undertake relevant ongoing training. This has helped to create a knowledgeable and skilled staff team and increases children's safety.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The new manager is supported by an experienced deputy manager. The management team knows the children very well and demonstrates insight, empathy, affection and understanding towards the children.

The management team is supported by an experienced responsible individual, who provides regular supervision to the manager. Leaders and managers share an ambitious vision for the home and promote an open and learning team culture.

Staff say that they feel valued and that ideas they put forward are listened to. Staff say that they enjoy their work. One staff member said that they are proud to be part of the staff team.

Senior leaders invest in the staff team, ensuring that the staff are appropriately qualified. Senior leaders support the management team to access advanced training in order to deliver quality in-house training to the staff.

Staff receive regular, good-quality supervision and attend regular team meetings, which provide opportunities to discuss children's progress, reflect on staff practice and to identify individual training needs.

Leaders and managers ensure that the home's care planning processes are effective. Management monitoring tools and case trackers are effective in identifying areas for development and help to support children's progress and experiences.

The management team demonstrates a commitment to listening to the views of the independent person and has acted on recommendations made in the external monitoring reports. Leaders and managers are open to challenge and to ideas for improvement.

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
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(vii)) In particular, ensure that incidents of restraint are evaluated with scrutiny, taking into consideration any possible learning outcomes that can be implemented in children's risk management plans and to support the development of staff.	20 May 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should have a system in place so that all serious events are notified, within 24 hours, to the appropriate people. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.13)
- The registered person should ensure that the home is a nurturing and supportive environment. In particular, provide play opportunities or activities in the back garden for the children to encourage their social development through play. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: Post vacant

Inspector

Amanda Burrows, Social Care Inspector

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