

SC016600

Registered provider: Bridge Communities Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a small independent provider. It provides care and accommodation for up to five children who may experience emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The registered manager and registered individual have been in post since the provision registered in March 2007.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

A full inspection was carried out in May 2021. This inspection took place to monitor progress and review requirements made at the previous inspection.

Inspection date: 14 September 2021

Date of last inspection: 10 May 2021

Judgement at last inspection: Requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection:

Several requirements were made at the previous inspection.

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

Leaders have started to address all of the shortfalls identified at the previous inspection. They have developed an action plan which is being implemented. There are notable improvements.

All the children who live here were spoken to by inspectors. The children all stated that they feel safe, secure and well looked after by their carers. They could identify someone to talk to if they have worries or concerns. There is evidence that important conversations take place with children to help them keep themselves safe. Relationships in the home are much improved. The house is filled with fun and laughter.

Incidents have reduced significantly since the last inspection. Notably, there have been no children reported missing from home. When incidents do occur, leaders and managers act to reduce risk of future harm and adjust the approach to care to better meet the needs of children.

There has been one referral made to the designated officer from the local authority. Managers acted in line with policy and procedures and an internal investigation included talking to children and staff. The concerns and outcome of the investigation were shared appropriately with partners.

Staff have the safety and well-being of the children at the heart of their practice. They go over and above expectations to ensure that children feel safe and cared for. For example, staff acted to understand cultural needs in respect of a family bereavement affecting two children. This has supported the children emotionally and is helping them through a very difficult time.

The arrangements in respect of safe storage and administration of medication are robust. New systems make oversight by leaders simpler and clearer. There have been no errors since this system was adopted.

Leaders have taken steps to streamline care planning documents for children. Staff report that this makes it easier for them to understand the needs of the children. Changes in children's plans are communicated to staff promptly. This ensures that they have the most up-to-date information. Further improvements are required to ensure that behaviour management strategies are clear.

Most staff receive regular and meaningful supervision that is challenging and child-

focused. There is evidence of reflective practice and managers are aware of what further improvements are required. Supervision in respect of the registered individual is still not established but some action has been taken to rectify this.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/12/2019	Full	Good
10/09/2019	Full	Inadequate
23/08/2018	Full	Good

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, 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
In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same. (Regulation 11 (2)(a)(x)) In particular, ensure that the registered individual has regular and meaningful access to supervision.	30 October 2021
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b)) In particular, ensure that behaviour management plans provide clarity to staff about how to act to manage each of the children's individual needs.	30 October 2021

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: SC016600

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Bridge Communities Limited

Registered provider address: Sutton Dipple, 8 Wheelwrights Corner, Cossack Square, Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 0DB

Responsible individual: Joanne Scott

Registered manager: Sarah Womersley

Inspectors

Tracey Ledger, Social Care Inspector

Penelope Kutz, Social Care Inspector

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