

SC029504

Pathway Care Solutions Ltd 04004053

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run home provides care and accommodation for up to four children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 2019.

Inspection date: 16 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit considered potential concerns identified from two notifications sent to Ofsted. Monitoring was undertaken remotely. Children, staff and placing social workers provided feedback via telephone calls and emails. The monitoring visit also considered the shortfalls from the last full inspection.

One recommendation from the last full inspection in 2019 has not been met. Records of independent missing-from-care interviews do not always reflect if interviews took place. They lack detail about what children said during those interviews. There is a lack of clarity about what actions staff and managers will take to reduce further missing-from-care incidents. This reduces the manager's ability to have clear oversight of the reasons for children going missing and how they will reduce such risky behaviour.

Managers have responded appropriately to allegations against staff. Relevant referrals were made to the designated officer. Internal safeguarding procedures and practices are robust. Managers have taken action to ensure the safety and welfare of children.

One notification related to a child gaining access to medication. There has been clear learning from this incident. Staff supervisions and a team meeting took place to consider and learn from the incident. Internal safeguarding and disciplinary processes were followed in a timely manner. Clear learning and changes in practice have been made as a result of this avoidable incident for both staff and managers. These should prevent further similar incidents from happening and protect children from potential harm.

Oversight of sanction records is now undertaken by a manager. Previously, this was done by the staff member involved in issuing the sanction. Now managers are able to have oversight of sanctions. The requirement from the full inspection is met.

Managers check and ensure that staff complete all core and other training. Managers track and consider the training needs of staff on a regular basis. The recommendation from the last inspection is met.

Staff receive regular supervision. Staff say that they feel well supported by colleagues and managers. They feel valued and have a voice in the running of the home. The recommendation from the last inspection is met.

Children's case records include details of looked after reviews and personal education plans. Managers chase placing social workers for any missing or late documentation. The recommendation from the last inspection is met.

Feedback from children living in the home is positive. One child stated: 'It feels like a family home. I would score it 9/10.' Two placing social workers were also very positive about the support and care provided. They feel that children make progress in all areas of their lives at this home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/04/2019	Full	Good
09/07/2018	Full	Good
09/08/2017	Full	Outstanding
03/03/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that when a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, the responsible local authority provides an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview. Homes should take account of information provided by such interviews when assessing risks and putting arrangements in place to protect each child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC029504

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Pathway Care Solutions Ltd 04004053

Registered provider address: Atria, Spa Road, Bolton BL1 4AG

Responsible individual: Donna Carlin

Registered manager: Sharon Billson

Inspector

Tracy Murty, Social Care Inspector

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