

SC063219

Registered provider: Children Assisted in a Real Environment (care) Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to five children. In the statement of purpose, the provider states that the home provides care for children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in July 2005. There is currently no registered manager for the home.

An interim manager was appointed on 14 June 2021 and has recently submitted an application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 1 February 2022

Date of last inspection: 30 June 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

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.

Children have made good progress since the last full inspection; for example, increasing school attendance, building strong relationships and a reduction in children going missing from the home. One child experienced a well-planned and supported move into the home and has settled well.

Leaders and managers are more effective in their oversight of the quality of care provided. New management systems, templates and processes show a real drive to improve the quality of care provided. Some of the changes bringing about improved outcomes for children include the support of a practice consultant, clinical supervision for managers and therapeutic consultations to support staff with the care they provide to children.

Improvements in the structure and expectations of care have also brought challenge. Newly recruited staff require training and established staff are learning new systems while change is embedded. The members of the management team are enthusiastic and are driving change to create a culture where positive practice can thrive. Due to changes in the staff team, the home's statement of purpose requires some additional updating before being sent to Ofsted.

Reporting of incidents at the home has improved. Notifications have been made for significant events appropriately. If children go missing from home, staff follow clear guidelines about what to do and when to report them missing. Risk assessments identify areas of concern but are too detailed and long. Simplifying these will support new and agency staff to understand risks quickly.

Learning from incidents has been supported by therapeutic consultation and used to facilitate workshops with children to address issues sensitively. Children are supported to discuss their concerns, share their views and become involved in the recruitment of new staff. Therefore, children feel that they have a say in how their home is run. Children understand how to complain; however, the children's guide does not set out how to complain about the interim manager or the responsible individual.

Multi-agency working has been key to facilitating change and empowering children to have improved outcomes. Regular monthly network meetings with child and adolescent mental health services support the ongoing work with children. Professionals contacted as part of this inspection gave very positive feedback about how partnership working is improving outcomes for children.

All the requirements from the last full inspection in June 2021 are met. Some recommendations are made to help to improve practice further.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/06/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/12/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
08/04/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/08/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff skills for safeguarding include being able to identify signs that children may be at risk, and support children in strategies to manage and reduce any risks. Staff should encourage children to express their views about whether they feel safe both within and outside the home. Staff should support children to understand how to ask for help to stay safe and that the home is an environment which supports this. Specifically, ensure that risk assessments are easy to understand and accessible documents for staff. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.10)
- The registered person should ensure that the home, as required, develops and keeps under review a 'statement of purpose' (regulation 16 and schedule 1). The home's statement of purpose should be child-focused, indicating how the home provides individualised care to meet the Quality Standards for the children in their care. Specifically, in relation to ensuring that the statement of purpose contains information about the home's designated safeguarding lead and the processes for referral to the local authority designated officer and the local authority child protection teams. In addition, ensure that a copy of the updated statement of purpose is sent to the regulator. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)
- The registered manager should ensure that as part of reviewing and revising where appropriate the statement of purpose (regulation 16(3)(a)), the registered person should review and update the children's guide as necessary, and make sure that children are given an explanation of any changes. Specifically, in relation to some of the language used in the guide and ensuring that children know how to complain about the registered manager and responsible individual if necessary. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 24, paragraph 4.23)

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: SC063219

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Children Assisted in a Real Environment (care) Ltd

Registered provider address: 144 Old Oak Road, London W3 7HF

Responsible individual: Linda Blakely

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Christine Kennet, Social Care Inspector

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