

SC066917

Registered provider: Oracle Care Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two children and young people aged eight to 18. Children and young people may have complex social, emotional and behavioural needs and require attachment-aware, trauma-informed care and support.

The current manager successfully registered with Ofsted in May 2018.

Inspection date: 22 January 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 12 July 2018

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 good at the last full inspection.

At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

Since the last inspection the registered manager has failed to take sufficient action to promote children's safety and protect them from harm. Managers and staff did not address requirements raised by the Fire and Rescue service in October 2018 in a timely manner. Managers rectified this shortfall during this inspection. However, this was in response to the inspection and not the result of prioritising children's safety. This shortfall contributes to the judgement of declined in effectiveness.

Children's educational attendance remains high. However, partnership working between

staff, the organisation's education provision and children's placing authorities is poor. Consequently, for one child there has been little progress to ensure that statutory education plans are now in place. This means that children may not receive the bespoke support, assistance and encouragement that they need to reach their full potential.

Managers and staff have worked hard to improve internal care planning processes. There is now a clear correlation between statutory care plans and internal support plans. These mirror the aims and objectives of the placing authorities, such as helping children to build suitable relationships. Children participate in regular one-to-one sessions. Staff use these to help children to reflect on their behaviours, recognise their progress and plan for their futures. Children grow in self-esteem and confidence because of this approach.

Children benefit from detailed risk assessments that highlight their risky behaviours and vulnerabilities. These incorporate the feedback, views and evaluation of the clinical team and allocated therapists. Managers regularly review these documents. They ensure that these include step-by-step actions for staff to follow to manage and reduce known risks. This collaborative approach enables children to make progress, and to learn to manage their own risks.

Risk assessments now include an evaluation of the use of bedroom door alarms. Currently, this restrictive measure is no longer necessary to safeguard children and is not in use in the home.

The registered manager now makes sure that all staff working in the home are subject to a comprehensive range of suitability checks. These are verified by managers. This improvement means that staff working with children are deemed suitable and safe to do so.

Staff continue to receive regular and good-quality formal supervision. These sessions are practice-related. Managers use these to encourage staff to reflect on their performance and identify their own learning needs. Regular staff meetings and consultation sessions with the organisation's clinical team help to equip staff with the skills necessary to support children and enhance their progress.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/07/2018	Full	Good
08/02/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
26/10/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
23/02/2017	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff— maintain regular contact with each child's education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child's education and training and to maximise the child's achievement. (Regulation 8(1)(2)(a)(vi))	31/03/2019
If the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005(a) applies to the home the registered person must ensure that the requirements of that Order and any regulations made under it, are complied with in respect of the home. (Regulation 25(2)(b)) This is with particular reference to taking timely action to comply with the requirement of this order.	31/03/2019

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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.

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: SC066917

Provision sub-type: children's home

Registered provider: Oracle Care Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 54 Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4HS

Responsible individual: Mark Cole

Registered manager: Alexander Scott

Inspector

Jo Stephenson, social care inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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