

SC389698

Registered provider: Oracle Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private company. It is registered to provide care for three children who require care, education and clinical support.

The manager has been registered for this home since July 2018.

Inspection dates: 27 to 28 September 2018

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: 31 January 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: declined in effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/01/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
27/06/2017	Full	Good
10/02/2017	Interim	Not judged
20/10/2016	Interim	Not judged

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are beginning to make good progress. The children have positive, trusting relationships with a staff team that understands children's past traumas and the impact that these have on their behaviours.

Children said that they like spending time with the staff, and that they can attend plenty of different activities in the community as well as at the home.

Education attendance is high. Staff understand the importance of education and proactively support children to attend school. The staff at the home work closely with education staff to help children to make effective transitions into school.

Children's individualised and regularly reviewed placement plans are informative. Children have the opportunity to read these plans with staff and make comments. This helps children to have a good understanding of the plans for their care.

Staff understand the importance of children feeling valued and listened to. Children attend weekly house meetings, at which a wide variety of topics are discussed. The manager reads the notes of these meetings and gives feedback. Children can see that their views are listened to and acted on when possible.

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

Children said that they feel safe because the staff look after them well. Children can speak to staff if they are worried or upset, and said that they know that the staff would help them. Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding and have attended all relevant training, which equips them to work safely with children.

Sanctions are fair and proportionate. Children have the opportunity to discuss their behaviour and any sanctions, and to comment on and sign the records of sanctions. This helps children to understand the consequences of their actions. Staff reward positive behaviour, which helps children to understand when they have done well.

Staff challenge unwanted behaviours and reinforce boundaries, considering each child's individual level of understanding and past trauma. This was observed during the inspection. Staff are sensitive to children's emotions and are able to de-escalate potentially difficult behaviours.

Children have comprehensive individual risk assessments in place. These are reviewed and updated after an incident, which supports the staff to work consistently and to keep the children safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

All 13 requirements and the two recommendations that were made at the last inspection have been met. An action plan was implemented to support this.

The manager has been in post since May 2018, when the home was re-opened after a period of closure. The manager has a clear vision for the home and recognises the strengths and areas for development.

Staff receive regular supervision that supports them to work with the children effectively and enables each staff member's personal development. Regular staff meetings and meetings with the clinician provide good forums to discuss children's needs and care practice issues. These meetings help staff to understand and meet children's needs effectively.

Staff have undertaken their mandatory training and have achieved or are in the process of achieving a relevant level 3 qualification.

The manager monitors care practice effectively. He uses the feedback from the monthly visits by the independent person to drive improvement. A quality assurance audit is undertaken monthly, along with the manager's own checks. This ensures that monitoring remains rigorous.

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 difference 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.

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: SC389698

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: Carl Evans

Inspector

Trish Palmer: social care inspector

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