

SC397092

Registered provider: Bryn Melyn Care Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private company and provides care for up to three children with complex social and emotional difficulties. It was registered by Ofsted in July 2009.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2022.

Inspection date: 2 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 11 May 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The care of children

Since the last inspection, no children have lived in the home for six months while the provider took action to recruit a permanent manager and staff team.

One child has recently moved into the home. Staff and the registered manager have supported the child with this move effectively and ensured that the child was provided with appropriate information about the home. In addition, they have visited the child on several occasions to develop relationships and prepare the child for the move into the home. This child-focused approach means that children benefit from support during important moments in their lives.

Staff work hard to develop positive relationships with children. The inspector observed one child, who was new to the home, playing football and having fun with the staff. Furthermore, staff have involved the child in setting the rules for the home. Consequently, children feel valued and develop good relationships with staff.

Since the last inspection, the home has undergone a full refurbishment. For example, every room has undergone redecoration, and new furniture has been put in place. As a result, the home is decorated to a high standard and provides a comfortable and homely environment for children to live in.

The safety of children

Children benefit from clear routines and boundaries. Staff ensure that children know what is expected of them. In addition, the management team provides training and safeguarding updates to staff in team meetings. This approach enhances children's feelings of safety and security.

Since the last inspection, there have been no missing-from-home incidents with children. However, there are up-to-date and clear protocols in place for staff to follow. The registered manager ensures that the protocols are shared with external professionals and the police. These actions help to reduce the risks to children who may go missing from the home.

Leaders respond efficiently and effectively to allegations made by children. For example, following an allegation made by the child, the registered manager ensured that senior leaders and the relevant external professionals were informed to safeguard the child. As a result, investigations are carried out in a timely manner, and appropriate decisions are made to maintain children's safety and well-being.

Staff manage significant incidents effectively to keep children safe. They ensure that incidents are well recorded and provide a clear overview. Leaders review incidents and ensure that children and staff are routinely spoken to. This focused work helps staff to support children through difficult times.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

A suitably qualified and experienced manager leads the home. He is child-focused, organised and has high expectations for children. Staff describe him as supportive and approachable. Supervision sessions are regular and reflective. In addition, he has introduced 'bake-off competitions' and created a monthly newsletter that keeps staff engaged and up to date. As a result, staff feel valued and supported in their role.

Staff and leaders are suitably trained and equipped with the skills to meet children's needs. Since the last inspection, a new induction training programme has been developed for staff to complete before working with children. Also, the registered manager is completing a manager development programme. Consequently, staff and leaders have the skills and experience to support children effectively.

The registered manager's oversight and monitoring of the home are good. He uses both internal and external monitoring systems to make improvements to the home. For example, he completes regular audits and daily 'golden hour checks'. These systems help to improve the quality of care for children.

The registered manager ensures that the home is suitably staffed to meet the needs of the children. There is a continual process of staff recruitment to cover vacancies in the team. Also, a new staff team works flexibly to cover the home's rota. This ensures that children are cared for by staff who are familiar to them.

The registered manager has ensured that all the requirements and one recommendation made at the last inspection have been addressed. These improvements reassure Ofsted that leaders can take action to improve the care that children receive.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/05/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/03/2022	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
14/12/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/12/2019	Full	Good

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC397092

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Bryn Melyn Care Limited

Registered provider address: Bryn Melyn Care Limited, Atria, Spa Road, Bolton, Greater Manchester BL1 4AG

Responsible individual: Rhian Hopkins

Registered manager: Matthew White

Inspector

Dean Wilton, Social Care Inspector

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