

SC397344

Birtenshaw

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private organisation and provides care and accommodation for up to four children or young people who may have been diagnosed with a learning disability and/or physical disability.

There is a condition on this home that it must reduce the number of children by the number of people aged 18 and over who are provided with care and accommodation.

Inspection date: 27 January 2021

This monitoring visit

This visit took place off site and included a virtual tour of the home. The young adult living in the home was spoken to. The focus of the visit was to ensure that children, young people and the young adult are safe and that their needs are being met.

The home is well furnished and homely. There are photographs of the children and young people in communal areas and their artwork is on display. Children and young people's bedrooms reflect their likes and interests. One young person has recently moved into the home and the staff are supporting him to personalise his room at his pace. Some areas of the home appear tired and are awaiting redecoration.

Children and young people are supported to develop trusting relationships with staff who understand their individual needs. A range of communication methods and tools are used in the home to communicate with children and young people and capture their wishes and feelings. Staff implement clear and consistent routines and boundaries that help children and young people to feel safe. The young adult living in the home spoke about this being his home and how he will be sad to leave.

Challenges faced by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic are managed effectively. Procedures are clear, and personal protective equipment is readily available.

Professionals are positive about the care provided and the quality of communication from the staff team. Relationships with children and young people's families are effective. Children and young people have been able to keep in touch with their families through virtual communication and outdoor visits. A family member said, 'The home is doing all it can to help us to see [name] in these difficult times.'

Safeguarding incidents and allegations are well managed. Any shortfalls are quickly addressed by the manager. Risk assessments provide clarity for staff around keeping children and young people safe. During the visit, some inconsistencies were identified across risk management plans and it was not always clear when they had been reviewed.

Physical interventions are predominantly low level and used to guide young people safely in line with their plans. Recordings made following incidents are detailed. One incident involving an inappropriate strategy was dealt with effectively.

The home has an experienced and qualified registered manager. She provides clear leadership and guidance and has strong oversight. Staff say they feel supported and have access to quality supervision and training. The manager has recently arranged additional training and increased staffing levels to support a young person as he settles into the home.

The team is stable. The staff work collaboratively to meet the needs of the children and young people in their care. There are some vacancies that are being covered by staff from within the organisation, and recruitment is ongoing.

Since the last inspection, improvements have been made to recordings and the quality of care report. The organisation is looking to make further changes to its current recording system.

The recommendations made at the last inspection have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/01/2020	Full	Good
07/01/2019	Full	Good
01/08/2017	Full	Good
16/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that high standards are maintained throughout the home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that risk management plans are consistent and regularly reviewed. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- The registered person should ensure that the recording systems used in the home support clear and concise recordings. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: SC397344

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Birtenshaw

Registered provider address: Darwen Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9AB

Responsible individual: David Reid

Registered manager: Marie Smith

Inspector

Caroline Bertram, Social Care Inspector

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