

SC471581

Registered provider: Albrighton Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care for two young people who have learning disabilities. The home is privately owned.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2020. The registered manager is undertaking the level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

We last visited this setting on 13 and 14 September 2020 to carry out an assurance visit. The report is published on our website.

Inspection dates: 9 to 10 June 2021

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 10 October 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/10/2018	Full	Good
16/10/2017	Full	Good
27/03/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
25/07/2016	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

No young people have moved in or out of the home since the assurance visit. One young person continues to live in the home. The young person is making progress. This is because of staff's personalised approach to his care planning.

Staff are child focused in their practice and reflect on how they can best meet the needs of the young person in their care. The young person can struggle with his emotions but is well supported by staff to manage this.

Staff make every effort to facilitate communication between the young person and his family, but only when this is safe to do so. Staff help the young person with facilitating video calls when visits are not possible. Staff talk to the young person about any changes to contact arrangements and support him to express his feelings about the contact he has with his loved one. This helps the young person to understand his emotions and understand why he sometimes may not be able to see his family.

The young person is flourishing at college. This is because of the support he gets from staff who promote his educational needs. One teacher told the inspector that the registered manager ensures that there is proactive joint working between the home and school. The registered manager shares risk assessments and behaviour support plans to ensure that there is a consistent approach at home and in the school.

Inter-agency working helps to ensure that the young person's health and behavioural needs are known and met. A nurse told the inspector that the registered manager keeps her informed of any changes to the young person's behaviour. This enables her to provide the staff with strategies to best support the young person. This information is then shared with all professionals who are involved in the care plan for the young person. This effective inter-agency working means that the young person receives the best possible care.

Staff have a good understanding of the communication needs for the young person. Staff are creative in their approach using visual aids, sounds, hand gestures and understanding his facial expressions. However, the knowledge that staff have gained through caring for the young person is not always reflected in his communication passport. As a result, there is a potential risk that staff may not understand the young person immediately.

The registered manager and her staff advocate for the young person. However, the young person does not yet have access to an independent advocate to ensure that someone can speak on his behalf when he leaves the home and transitions to adult services. This means that he will lose the advocacy support that he is currently receiving now.

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

The young person's relationship with staff and the consistency of care provided means that the young person feels safe and well cared for.

The registered manager and her team are good at keeping the young person safe. All staff have completed specialised safeguarding training for vulnerable young people who have learning difficulties. Staff can confidently describe the actions that they would take if they had any safeguarding concerns. There have not been any safeguarding referrals required, missing from home incidents or formal complaints.

The young person's behaviour is well managed. Staff understand the patterns and cycles of behaviours and, as a result, can de-escalate situations at an early stage. Staff maintain clear, consistent and appropriate boundaries. Staff support the young person competently when he experiences difficult situations and emotional challenges. Staff use physical interventions as a last resort. This means that the interventions are only used when appropriate and when needed to safeguard the young person from harm.

The young person is supported in making better choices. Staff use a solution-focused approach and look beyond the behaviour of the young person. Due to this, staff have confidence in responding to incidents, and incidents are resolved promptly.

The registered manager ensures that all staff are subject to a comprehensive recruitment procedure to ensure that they are suitable people to be working in the home.

The inspector identified that some fire doors do not have the required self-closing function and intumescent fire strip. The responsible individual and registered manager took action during the inspection to ensure that there was a plan to get these fitted in a timely manner.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is passionate and effective in managing the home. She is supported by an equally competent staff team that shares her vision and passion for improving the life of the young person. The staff team has been successful in gaining a greater understanding of the young person's needs and sharing this knowledge with all professionals. Because of this, there is a clear plan for the young person to transition into adult services.

Staff benefit from regular supervision from the registered manager, who is described by staff as supportive. The registered manager is child focused in her approach and has acted to encourage greater reflection on practice by the team, both in supervision and in team meetings.

The number of staff on duty is enough to ensure that the needs of the young person are met. There are always two staff caring for him, who are well trained and feel well supported.

Professionals speak highly of the registered manager, as well as staff. One social worker shared that the staff ensure that the young person receives a good structure and that they have been successful at supporting the young person at college and providing the young person with a positive experience. Similar feedback was echoed by other professionals.

The inspector found that some of the young person's personal belongings are stored in the staff sleep-in bedroom rather than the young person's bedroom. A requirement was raised at the previous assurance visit in relation to this matter. This requirement has been restated.

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that the personal belongings of the young person are not stored in the staff sleep in room.	13 September 2021
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— develop positive relationships with them; engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—	13 September 2021

ensure that each child— is enabled to provide feedback to, and raise issues with, a relevant person about the support and services that the child receives; is given appropriate advocacy support. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(b)(i)(iii)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that the young person has access to an advocacy support and their communication passport contains accurate information regarding their communication needs.	
After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must— take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of suitable fire equipment in the children's home. (Regulation 25 (1)(a)) This specifically relates to the registered provider ensuring that all fire doors are fire safety compliant.	31 July 2021

Information about this 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: SC471581

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Albrighton Care Limited

Registered provider address: Suite 4, Bermar House, Rumer Hill Business Estate,
Rumer Hill Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 0ET

Responsible individual: Isobel Green

Registered manager: Sara Parkes

Inspector

Sam Dulay-Kainth, Social Care Inspector

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