

SC480655

Registered provider: The Place Young People's Company Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run home provides care and accommodation for up to four children/young people who have a range of emotional and behavioural needs.

There is an acting manager in post. He has submitted his application for registration.

Inspection dates: 17 to 18 February 2020

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: 21 November 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/11/2018	Full	Outstanding
31/05/2017	Full	Good
25/01/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
28/06/2016	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children make progress and have positive, life-enhancing experiences in this home. They receive nurturing care and support from staff who understand their complex needs.

Staff not only support children well, they also support parents and family members. One parent said: 'They are like an extension of our family. They are amazing, and I cannot fault them.' Children get to see and keep in touch with people who matter to them. The staff team enabled one child to spend Christmas Day with a family member by providing a venue and food. This demonstrates the excellent relationships staff have formed with both children and those important to them. Staff regularly transport children to see family and friends, both locally and across the country. Children feel valued and respected as a result.

A team of therapists supports the staff team and works with children. Therapists also offer support to family members. Over time, children develop better emotional health. Health plans do not currently provide full or clear details of the medical history of each child. For example, one child requires specialist dental support. The health records do not clearly state how the child's reluctance to engage is being considered or addressed.

Education provision is in place for all children. Most are currently receiving tutor support pending school placements being secured. Managers have made representations to the placing authorities and education services about the lack of full-time school provision. Further challenge is needed to ensure that the reason for ending one child's school placement is clarified and that an education, health and care plan is urgently provided for another child.

Children feel fully involved in their care plans and the running of the home. Staff seek children's wishes, views and feelings, and act on them. Records from meetings with children do not, however, clearly reflect how the manager has responded to any requests they make. Clearer feedback following each meeting would provide children with a better sense of how their requests have been responded to. Children know who they can speak to if they have concerns.

Children learn new skills and grow in confidence. They go on holidays regularly with staff. They join local groups and clubs. Their independence skills improve. They leave this home well prepared for adult life. Staff also ensure that any specific religious, dietary or cultural needs are well considered and supported.

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

Children say that they feel safe and protected. Their family members and placing social workers also report high levels of satisfaction at the improved safety of

children. There have been no missing from care incidents since the last inspection. However, staff demonstrate a good understanding of missing protocols.

Children understand and accept the need for boundaries and rules. Staff celebrate the positive behaviours of children. Photograph albums and record of achievement books provide a lovely account of what children have done during their time at the home.

Recruitment processes for new staff are robust and prevent unsuitable adults from working with children. Staff receive mandatory safeguarding training and display a clear understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

Allegations against staff have been responded to quickly and appropriately. Managers have referred any concerns to the designated officer. They have supported both children and staff during the process. One placing social worker praised managers for their response to allegations and noted how well they kept the local authority updated.

Staff understand the risks posed to and from children well. They assess risks and review them regularly. They are not averse to encouraging children to take age-appropriate risks. They understand the need to provide children with opportunities so that they can take personal responsibility for their actions.

The use of sanctions is minimal and appropriate. However, two records relating to sanctions imposed were not clear or specific. One referred to the removal of a mobile phone 'until further notice'. The other referred to repayment of money for damage caused to property but was unclear on timescales. These records were not written in a way that would be helpful to the children involved.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The current manager was previously the deputy manager in this home. He has many years' experience of working in residential care. He has submitted his application to Ofsted to register. He is ambitious for the children in his care and wants them to have positive outcomes. This view is shared by the staff team. The staff team also demonstrates a real passion and commitment to improving outcomes for children.

Managers and staff understand the progress children make and their specific areas of need. They act as strong advocates, seeking out services to support children's complex needs. They challenge other agencies and professionals where shortfalls have been identified.

A range of monitoring and tracking systems enable managers and staff to understand the progress children make. These include feedback from the in-house therapists and specific assessment tools being used. Managers have a clear and detailed developmental plan in place. They have recently introduced a development plan for children. This sets out each child's specific views about the home and improvements they would like to see. The plan does not set timescales for

completion of identified actions. This would provide children with a clear sense of whether/how and when their requests will be met and by who.

The location/safer area risk assessment for the home and surrounding areas is detailed and clear. It includes information relating to which staff and children can swim. This reflects the existence of ponds, canals and rivers in the locality. Managers have also purchased buoyancy aids for staff to use, in the event of a child being at risk near water. This is a positive and proactive response to potential risks in the area.

The statement of purpose for the home is clear and detailed. Staff and managers work to the stated aims and objectives. Children also receive a highly personalised guide when they move into the home. This includes photos and personal profiles of each staff member and managers.

The manager has ensured that the religious, dietary and cultural needs of children are met. This includes the provision of a separate fridge/freezer for halal foods. Staff support children to attend their chosen place of worship. They demonstrate respect and insight into children's specific needs and ensure that they are met.

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
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or relevant person to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c))	31/03/2020
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— take part in activities, and attend any appointments, for the purpose of meeting the child's health and well-being needs. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(iii))	31/03/2020

Recommendations

- The health of looked-after children must be assessed at regular intervals and the child's care plan must include an individual health plan setting out the approach that the placing authority will follow, and the desired outcomes required to meet the child's needs. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 33, paragraph 7.4)

- Staff should understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about a child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- Children should be able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted upon. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standard', page 22, paragraph 4.11)

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: SC480655

Provision sub-type: children's home

Registered provider: The Place Young People's Company Limited

Registered provider address: Belvoir Farm, Woolsthorpe Road, Redmile,
Nottingham, Leicestershire NG13 0GN

Responsible individual: Alexander Astill

Registered manager: post vacant

Inspector

Tracy Murty, Social Care Inspector

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