

SC482872

Registered provider: Park Blue Homes Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned and managed by a private organisation. It provides care and accommodation for up to five children in two properties on the same site. The manager has been registered since September 2016.

Inspection date: 19 February 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 7 November 2018

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Children continue to make good progress in their personal development. All four children attend full-time education and have a wide range of interests outside of their school day. This inspection occurred during a school holiday and children were busy enjoying numerous outings to places of their choice such as museums, trampoline parks and the cinema. In addition, children were enjoying horse riding events and visiting their families.

Regular attendance at youth groups and clubs continues to provide great opportunities for children to socialise and make friends. One child is looking forward to a residential event with the brownies. Another child is an active member of the children in care council where she is making a video to focus on the impact of bullying. By raising such awareness, this will provide support to children who experience this type of abuse.

The children continue to feel settled at this home, where they have some positive relationships with the adults who care for them. The staff help children to improve their relationships with each other resulting in less disagreements between children. There has been no disruption with children leaving or moving in, and the group of four children has remained the same.

The manager effectively manages staff. She appropriately challenges practice that does not meet the required standard and supports the team members to develop by providing them with training and additional supervision. This has led to an improvement in staff practice and professional development.

Physical intervention has significantly reduced for one child, an indicator that he feels safe and settled at this home. The social worker reports very positively on how this home is meeting the child's needs well. The use of physical intervention is mostly effective, preventing children from hurting themselves or others. However, during one incident staff did not use their skills in de-escalation techniques, despite their training in behaviour management. This led to the inappropriate use of physical intervention that could have been avoided. Such poor practice means that the requirement from the last inspection has not been met and is repeated from this inspection.

Some children have the contact details for staff members' personal mobile telephones. This has occurred with the intention of arranging to meet and collect children when out of the home in the absence of a mobile telephone provided by the organisation, specifically for staff to use. However, this is not good practice and compromises personal and professional boundaries.

The manager and staff team have good relationships with many social care, and health, professionals. Effective partnership working occurs in relation to education and therapy.

Two of the three requirements from the last inspection are met in full. The manager has improved the records for the administration of medication and ensures that the child's account of events is fully recorded within incident reports.

All referrals to the designated officer contain full information, accompanied by incident reports. In addition, the manager consistently applies the performance management procedures and ensures that staff receive regular supervision that is reflective of their practice. These improvements confirm that the two recommendations from the last inspection are also met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/11/2018	Full	Good
07/03/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
21/11/2017	Full	Inadequate
01/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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
12: The protection of children standard The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12(1)(2)(e)) In particular, review the staff use of personal mobile telephones.	31/03/2019
20: Restraint and deprivation of liberty Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 20(2))	31/03/2019

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 differences 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.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

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: SC482872

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Park Blue Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Fairfield Lodge, Evenwood Lane, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, Durham DL14 9NH

Responsible individual: Richard Parker

Registered manager: Nicola Streat

Inspector

Clare Davies, social care inspector

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