

# SC485427

Registered provider: Blackford Education (schools) Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. The statement of purpose advises that the home can accommodate a maximum of two children with social and emotional difficulties. The care packages usually include the provision of education at the company's school.

An additional registered manager has been registered with Ofsted since August 2020. She is in day-to-day control of the home.

**Inspection date: 15 March 2022**

**Date of last inspection:** 29 November 2021

**Judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

Following the last inspection leaders and managers took action to address the previous requirements. Staffing levels have been reviewed; decisions about how staff are deployed to better meet children's needs are clearly documented. Staff have reported anonymously to Ofsted that they feel the home works better with two members of staff on shift.

Since the last full inspection, there have been three incidents of restraint at the home. These were found to be proportionate and necessary to keep the child and staff safe. Two of these incidents occurred when there were two members of staff on duty. On one occasion, staff were able to use the 'change of face' approach, which worked effectively to de-escalate the situation. The second incident did not require a second member of staff, who was able to remain with the other child in the home. Debriefs with staff and children are timely and thorough. However, on one occasion, the manager did not record speaking with the second member of staff on duty.

Following an incident, one child voiced that they no longer wanted to live in the home. While they did not wish to make a complaint, the manager supported them to speak with their social worker and advocated on their behalf. There are now plans for this child to move out of the home and the child feels happy with this decision. Leaders and managers have been child-focused in orchestrating this move and advocating that this happens at the child's pace. The manager has created a transition report for the child's new provision, detailing all pertinent information to the child and their care.

Children's care plans and risk assessments have been updated. These are more individualised to the child and provide staff with key phrases to use as well as giving a rationale for the staff to understand the reasons behind the caring practices. However, for one child, there is strong reference made to a condition for which they have not been diagnosed and could be misleading.

Children are attending activities, with one child attending a community group weekly. The other child remains undecided about clubs, although these are offered to them. However, staff have encouraged and facilitated a play date with a friend from school. Both children are provided with opportunities to develop their independence skills.

The children continue to attend school daily, and education is promoted at this home.

The home environment is a welcoming and relaxing space, which resembles a family home.

Review mechanisms need more work. The independent person does not offer robust scrutiny or challenge in their reports or make recommendations for further development.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 29/11/2021      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 14/05/2019      | Full            | Outstanding                     |
| 16/08/2018      | Full            | Good                            |
| 14/11/2017      | Full            | Good                            |

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

### **Recommendations**

- The registered person should ensure that the review of the care provided by the home identifies areas of strength and possible weaknesses in the home's care. The whole review process and the resulting report should be used as a tool for continuous improvement in the home. In particular, ensure that the report is self-challenging to drive improvement. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.4)
- The registered person should ensure that the independent person makes a rigorous and impartial assessment of the quality of the home's care. In particular, that the independent person conducts some visits unannounced to capture the day-to-day running of the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

### **Information about this inspection**

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.

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:** SC485427

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Blackford Education (schools) Ltd

**Registered provider address:** Blackford House, Blackford, Minehead TA24 8SY

**Responsible individual:** Gina Dyer

**Registered managers:** Gina Dyer  
Stacy Ward

## Inspector

Katie Ratcliffe, Social Care Inspector

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