

SC486398

Assurance visit

Information about this children's home

A private provider owns this home. The home can provide care and accommodation for up to four children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager is registered with Ofsted and is suitably qualified and experienced.

Visit dates: 7 to 8 October 2020

Previous inspection date: 25 February 2020

Previous inspection judgement: Requires improvement to be good

Information about this visit

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Ofsted suspended all routine inspections in March 2020. As part of a phased return to routine inspection, we are undertaking assurance visits to children's social care services that are inspected under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF).

At these visits, inspectors evaluate the extent to which:

- children are well cared for
- children are safe
- leaders and managers are exercising strong leadership.

This visit was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000, following the published guidance for assurance visits.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's social care system has delivered child-centred practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Findings from the visit

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance visit.

The care of children

The manager at the home utilised the COVID-19 lockdown period to make improvements to the physical environment of the home. Young people were consulted with and contributed to redecoration, including their bedrooms and the garden. This helped to keep young people occupied and supported them to take ownership of their home. There is a homelier feel to the environment as a result.

Young people were supported to maintain contact with their families and friends. The manager consulted with social workers to ensure family time continued throughout the lockdown period. The support needs of young people were well considered.

Staff at the home care about the children and young people, but there is a lack of consistent boundaries and routines in the home. Young people have poor and chaotic sleep routines and regularly stay up all night on their mobile phones, smoking and cooking meals. This then impacts on their ability to attend education. This means some young people are at risk of losing their education placements due to poor attendance.

One young person has no formal education in place despite them requesting this. There is no tutor in place to support education until an education placement can be found. The manager has provided some workbooks, which the young person completes independently. The plans for accessing education for this young person have been allowed to drift due to changes in social worker.

Young people have good access to external and internal professionals to support their emotional and mental health needs. Staff and young people at the home have been supported in identifying and developing strategies of support. One young person said that staff had really helped them and were caring.

Young people have a voice in the home and are regularly consulted through formal and informal meetings. Young people contribute to the running of the home and have positive choices.

The safety of children

There are some significant concerns around bullying in the home and relationships between the young people. There have been incidents of verbal abuse and threats of violence between the young people. Risk assessments have not been followed in response to concerns. Follow-up work has not been undertaken with the young people. Staff do not appear to fully understand the concerns around bullying and the relationships between the young people or look at this in a wider context.

Risk assessments are not regularly reviewed or updated. Some risk factors have not been considered and plans do not reflect known risks. Young people's plans do not reflect some individual needs or how practice may need to be adapted in response.

Young people's plans do not always correspond with risk assessments. Information is not routinely shared across these documents. Staff do not work consistently with the plans and risk assessments in place. This impacts on the structured routines and boundaries in the home.

Staff have worked well with a young person around their emotional and mental health needs. Self-harm has reduced and there is a range of support in place for the young person and the staff team.

Leaders and managers

There is evidence of some progress being made in the home and management oversight has improved. The manager is described as a positive role model and staff feel supported. Staff have regular supervision.

Management oversight of key documents needs to improve. Information needs to be regularly reviewed to ensure staff have access to and knowledge of the current needs and concerns regarding the young people. There is a lack of consistency of practice in the home, which impacts on routines and boundaries for the young people.

The manager is developing a fairly new staff team. The induction process is detailed, and new staff have felt supported in their role. Not all staff have received training to develop their knowledge and understanding of the specific care needs of the young people in the home.

The home has good links with external professionals who, on the whole, gave positive feedback about the home. External professionals have contributed to staff meetings and undertaken training with the staff to develop skills and knowledge.

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.

Not all requirements from the previous inspection were reviewed during the assurance visit. These have been carried over to the next inspection.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety.	01/01/2021

The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children’s home; or if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that- full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1)(2)(a)(b)(3)(d))	
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 staff— protect and promote each child’s welfare. (Regulation 6(1)(a)(b)(2)(b)(ii))	01/01/2021
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. (Regulation 10(1)(a)(b)(c))	01/01/2021
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and	01/12/2020

positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable; and have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them; and that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(iv)(v)(xii)(xiii)(2))	
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 staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12(1)(2)(a)(i)(b))	01/12/2020

Recommendations

- Where children placed in a home are not participating in education because they have been excluded or are not on school roll for some other reason, the

registered person and staff must work closely with the placing authority so that the child is supported and enabled to resume full-time education as soon as possible. In the interim, the child should be supported to sustain or regain their confidence in education and be engaged in suitable structured activities. If no education place is identified by the placing authority, the registered manager must challenge them to meet the child's needs under regulation 5 (engaging with the wider system to ensure children's needs are met). ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 28, paragraph 5.15)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC486398

Registered provider: Inspirations Leicestershire Ltd

Registered provider address: 131a London Road, Oadby, LEICESTER LE2 5DP

Responsible individual: Parminder Basra

Registered manager: Gareth Jolly

Inspector

Sarah Orriss, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2020