

1236916

Registered provider: Utopia Children's Services Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned by a private company that also owns two other children's homes in an adjoining region. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three children or young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 14 March 2018

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement

Date of last inspection: 10 February 2017

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 at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Since the previous inspection, one child has left the home. Her departure was unplanned. Two children remain in placement. Their local authority care plan aims and objectives are being met. Both of these children are achieving well socially and emotionally. They said that they enjoy living at the home and said that they feel safe and cared for.

Two of the four requirements and both of the recommendations made at the previous inspection have been met. The registered manager now ensures that all notifiable events are reported to Ofsted and new systems have been introduced that ensure the safe disposal of medication. Improvements in respect of missing from home interviews and sanctions have also been made. Further work is required to meet the previous

requirements relating to management monitoring and care planning.

Since the previous inspection, there have been no concerns that required referring to the designated officer or children's services for the two remaining children at the home. Incidents relating to one child who no longer lives in the home have been appropriately shared with safeguarding agencies and notified to Ofsted.

The requirement raised at the previous inspection in relation to management monitoring has not been fully met. The manager's review of records is starting to improve, but further work is required to ensure that omissions and variances in the quality of records are identified and rectified.

At the previous inspection, weaknesses were identified in the quality of children's behaviour support plans and risk assessments. In response, the manager has recently introduced new documents that aim to provide staff with clearer information and instructions about how to recognise and meet the children's needs. These documents are in the process of being introduced and have not been completed for all children. As a result, the care planning requirement has not been fully met.

The requirement relating to sanctions, that was raised at the previous inspection, has been met. The approach to behaviour management is now more focused on recognising and rewarding positive behaviour. Since the previous inspection, one sanction has been imposed. This was appropriate and provided the child with the opportunity to recognise and learn from their behaviour.

Since the previous inspection, there has been one missing from home episode associated with one of the children in placement. Staff took appropriate action to ensure her safe return home. Following her return, the manager requested an independent return home interview, which was facilitated by telephone by the local authority.

Children's behaviour is managed well. There have not been any physical interventions or complaints and the use of sanctions has reduced significantly. The manager confirmed that there have not been any concerns that indicate that the current children who live at the home are at risk of exploitation or radicalisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/02/2017	Full	Requires improvement

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
<p>13: The leadership and management standard</p> <p>In order to meet the leadership and management standard the registered person must—</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(2)(g)(ii)(h))</p>	27/04/2018
<p>14: The care planning standard</p> <p>The care planning standard is that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14(1)(a)(b))</p> <p>In particular, care and behaviour management plans and risk assessments need to be current and identify how young people's needs will be met.</p>	27/04/2018

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: 1236916

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Utopia Children's Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Hazlewoods, Windsor House, Bayshill Road,
Cheltenham GL50 3AT

Responsible individual: Louis Stuart-Kelso

Registered manager: Leon James

Inspector(s)

Sharron Escott, social care inspector

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