

1245572

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Interim 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 and young people who may exhibit emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home offers short-, medium- and long-term residential placements for children and young people aged between eight and 18. The manager has been registered since June 2018.

Inspection date: 19 September 2018

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 12 June 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.

Since the last inspection, the registered manager has taken steps to address all the previous recommendations. The manager now records the actions following residents' meetings. This keeps children and young people informed about why decisions have been made.

Photographs and memorabilia are now kept in memory books. This provides those children and young people that leave with an important record of the time they spent living at the home and contributes to their life history.

One young person has moved to another placement to live in their home town. This was a planned move, with the young person sitting their exams before leaving. Good information-sharing with the new staff team ensured there was a successful transition.

Children and young people remain settled at the home. They are enrolled in educational placements and have had good attendance at school and college since their return this

term. Staff support young people to develop their independent living skills. This has resulted in one young person having the confidence to travel alone, as well as learning new skills in preparing and cooking meals.

Two new children have recently moved in. The manager has taken appropriate action to escalate her concerns about missing care-planning documentation. This does not impact directly on the children's care and both children speak positively about staff and of how well they have settled at the home. Good impact risk assessments outline any potential issues arising from the new residents moving in. Staff skilfully deal with any disagreements between the children and young people and use a conciliation approach to help those involved feel listened to and address disputes quickly.

Staff continue to be effective in using a therapeutic reparenting model. Children and young people's discussions with staff show that they have built trusting relationships, allowing them to find alternative ways to manage their emotions rather than displaying anger. Children and young people do not go missing from home and there are no known risks of sexual or criminal exploitation.

The vigilant staff are quick to notice any changes in children and young people's demeanour which could indicate possible drug or alcohol misuse. If so, the staff provide information as well as facilitating external agencies coming to the home to educate and inform children and young people of the dangers. Staff also speak to local shops that sell alcohol to try to ascertain who could be supplying alcohol to the children and young people. They notify the school and college to make sure children and young people's welfare is safeguarded across different settings.

The manager continues to provide effective management at the home. She is a strong advocate for children and young people, who she gets to know well due to her hands-on approach at the home.

Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 12/06/2018 | Full | Good |
| 03/10/2017 | Full | Requires improvement to be good |
| 20/06/2017 | Full | Inadequate |

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

Recommendations

- The registered person must challenge (under regulation 5(c)) any placing authority who asks them to accept a child in the absence of a complete and current relevant plan, as the expectation that a placement of a child without the necessary information would go ahead (in circumstances other than an emergency) is inadequate in relation to their role. It is essential that homes understand what will be required of them before they accept responsibility for a child's placement, to avoid disruption and instability for the child in future and for other children in the home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 57, paragraph 11.5) In particular, ensure the child's looked after paperwork is received from the placing authority as outlined within the Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations volume 2: care planning, placement and case review document.

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: 1245572

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Registered provider address: Venture House, Unit 12, Prospect Business Park,
Longford Road, Cannock WS11 0LG

Responsible individual: Matthew Fisher

Registered manager: Hayley Hardman

Inspector

Tina Ruffles, social care inspector

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