

1248979

Registered provider: Little Belsteads Care Home Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to seven children, aged eight to 17 on admission, who have learning disabilities and/or sensory impairment.

The experienced manager has been registered since 2018.

Inspection date: 5 December 2018

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 9 May 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 thrive and flourish at this home. Since the last inspection, Ofsted has agreed a minor variation, which enables the provider to offer a small number of additional placements. One carefully planned new admission since the full inspection demonstrates that the registered manager scrutinises suitability effectively. This approach maximises continuity for all of the children.

Two of the quality standards from the last inspection are met. The statement of purpose has been amended to more accurately reflect the service offered. Two quality standards are repeated. This is because the manager could not demonstrate that the internal system for tracking staff progress during probation is used to full effect. In addition, while some improvement has been made to the content of children's files, information is not yet organised in ways that are helpful to children or their parents.

The manager thoroughly investigates any concerns raised about staff performance. Working with the responsible individual and the quality assurance manager, the manager takes decisive action to ensure that children are safe. However, on one occasion, the designated officer was not promptly informed of an allegation. This was appropriately addressed during this inspection and has no direct impact on the children.

Sampling of records shows that managers' oversight of and commentary about staff actions following incidents are not sufficiently consistent. This does not demonstrate that the manager routinely scrutinises significant incidents that take place, for example when she is not present at the home.

Children do not go missing from this home. Some of the children can behave aggressively towards the staff, but the staff do a good job to manage challenging behaviour patiently and sensitively. Incidents at the home are reducing and the frequency of physical intervention, which is limited to only some of the children, is also reducing significantly.

The staff know the children well and build meaningful relationships with them. The children are safe and settled. The staff proactively and creatively encourage the children to develop their own interests and personalities. New relationships with providers in the local community mean that those children who want to have the opportunity to attend a local youth club. This is fun and inclusive.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/05/2018	Full	Good
07/03/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
18/07/2017	Full	Inadequate

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

Recommendations

- Ensure that the local authority designated officer is informed promptly of all allegations that come to the manager's attention. For further information, including about the role of the local authority designated officer see *Working together to safeguard children*. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 44, paragraph 9.18)
- Ensure that all incidents of control, discipline and restraint are subject to regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair. ('Guide to the children's homes

regulations including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.36)

In particular, ensure that managers' commentary about staff members' actions is consistently recorded.

- Ensure that the internal system for tracking progress during staff members' probationary periods is followed. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.8)
- Ensure that information about the child is recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 1248979

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Little Belsteads Care Home Limited

Registered provider address: Little Belsteads, Back Lane, Little Waltham, Chelmsford CM3 3PP

Responsible individual: Peter Adams

Registered manager: Cindy Burt

Inspector

Rosie Davie: social care inspector

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