

1232657

Registered provider: Compass Children's Homes Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children aged seven to 18. Children may have faced adverse childhood experiences, trauma, and placement and family breakdown.

The registered manager has managed the home since February 2018.

Inspection date: 12 December 2018

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 1 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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

The registered manager has taken sufficient action to address the four requirements raised at the last inspection. Additional improvements to other areas of practice, such as care planning, mean that children's day-to-day experiences are mostly positive. This supports their personal development and progress.

Staff now make sure that all children have access to suitable school placements. These meet their individual needs and when necessary provide additional support to help children to re-engage with formal learning. Furthermore, staff continually encourage children to develop independent study skills that help them to achieve their full potential. This constructive approach to learning means that children understand the importance of education and the positive impact it has on their progress.

The registered manager ensures that internal care planning processes reflect children's individual needs. These plans incorporate detailed risk assessments and behaviour management plans. Staff use personalised incentives and rewards to encourage children to manage their own behaviours. As a result, there is a reduction in the use of physical restraint. When this measure of control is necessary, the registered manager now makes sure that staff complete detailed restraint records. This enables her to evaluate and review these events. This protects children and promotes their welfare.

Most children who were living in the home at the time of the last inspection have now left. There have been several new admissions. For some children, their discharge was the result of exceptionally challenging and risky behaviour. However, in these circumstances managers and staff worked in partnership with social workers and placing authorities. Consequently, these moves were mostly well planned and in children's best interests.

Since the last inspection, some children have made allegations of abuse or harm. On all occasions, the registered manager has ensured that these allegations have been managed appropriately. She works in partnership with the designated officer for the local authority alongside children's placing authorities. As a result, children are supported and their concerns are taken seriously, regardless of any potential for these allegations to be false. This promotes children's safety and welfare. Furthermore, staff complete bespoke one-to-one sessions with children to help them to understand the impact that making false allegations may have on themselves or others.

The registered manager now oversees the safer recruitment of all staff who work in the home. As a result, appropriately verified checks and employment references are in place for all new staff before they have unsupervised contact with children.

The improvements that have been made to internal monitoring systems now enable the registered manager to fully assess, review and evaluate the quality of care provided by the home. These systems remain under continual review to ensure that they reflect children's progress and the ongoing development of the home. This means that the service can adapt when children's needs change.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/05/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
01/02/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
03/08/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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: 1232657

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Compass Children's Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Mountfields House, Epinal Way, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3GE

Responsible individual: Benjamin Jordan

Registered manager: Paula Niven

Inspector

Jo Stephenson, social care inspector

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