

1249184

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 home is one of a group of homes operated by the same organisation. The statement of purpose indicates that the home provides up to three young people with a period of stability to reflect on their difficulties and make future plans. Staff aim to promote self-esteem through recognition, achievement and praise.

The registered manager has been in post for almost one year and recently started her level 5 diploma in leadership and management.

Inspection date: 11 March 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 25 April 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 sustained effectiveness.

Six young people have lived here since the last inspection in April 2018. Young people receive care and protection that varies in quality. Staff's skills in therapeutic care vary. This is despite their receiving regular advice from the organisation's clinical team.

Young people said that it is 'all right' here and that they like the staff. Staff spend time with them, take them out, give them choices and make sure that they are helped to see

their families.

Some staff have good relationships with young people. They provide good-quality key working sessions and hold helpful conversations. In contrast, other staff do not build on this work. Staff do not help young people to make good progress in developing healthy routines in eating, sleeping and personal hygiene.

Staff continue to make records that are not helpful to young people. Young people are suspicious of what is written about them and they do not want to read, sign or keep any of their records or plans. The manager does not routinely read what staff write and is not proactive in identifying new strategies to try and help staff develop their practice.

Most young people do not engage in education. The manager reported that young people who have moved on are now doing better in education. Staff and managers provide some encouragement to young people and they liaise with education providers. However, staff and the manager do not proactively plan their work to help young people overcome their difficulties that are blocking their ability to learn.

Some young people struggle to get on with one another and occasionally can cause severe damage and harm to other people and property. The manager and staff keep young people apart with some success. Some staff advise young people about safe, positive relationships and social behaviour. Staff and the manager try hard to avoid young people being unnecessarily criminalised. However, staff and the manager sometimes aggravate situations because they do not give reasons for restrictions that make sense to young people. In addition, the manager and staff have not thought about the potential grooming risks associated with internet gaming.

The manager matches young people carefully despite frequently taking placements at short notice. However, she has struggled at times to make and retain a skilled and creative staff team. She supervises staff adequately and identifies when staff need to improve. However, the manager does not sufficiently assess the impact on young people of delays and confusion about legal proceedings, investigations and decision-making. She does not prioritise finding out about what is happening or advocating for young people. Young people have less confidence in the manager and staff as a result.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/04/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
25/10/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/06/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1)(2)(a)(i))</p>	15/04/2019
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a))</p>	15/04/2019
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare.</p>	15/04/2019

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(h))	
<p>The care planning standard is that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)(2)(c))</p>	15/04/2019
<p>The care planning standard is that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff help each child to access and contribute to the records kept by the registered person in relation to the child. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)(2)(f))</p>	15/04/2019

Recommendations

- Staff should be skilled in understanding the range of influences that friendships can have and should encourage those with a positive impact and discourage those with a negative impact. Homes that care for children who have, or are likely, to sexually offend should establish the extent to which friendships can be supported, in line with the child's relevant plans and subject to the safety of all concerned. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 38, paragraph 8.8)

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: 1249184

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: Denise Knowles

Registered manager: Valerie Mckean

Inspector

Rachel Britten, 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 <http://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 <http://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: <http://www.gov.uk/ofsted>

© Crown copyright 2019