

1229977

Registered provider: Oxfordshire County Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a local authority. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children. It provides a residential experience for children needing accommodation during a period of assessment and for those requiring shared care. Children and families may also receive community support from the home.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since October 2018.

Inspection date: 10 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 28 October 2019

Judgement at last inspection: Good

Enforcement action since last inspection:

None.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/10/2019	Full	Good
20/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
23/07/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/01/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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.

A particular strength of this home is that young people's transitions both in and out of the home are very well managed. For example, all the young people who have left the home since the last inspection have had planned endings with positive outcomes. Young people who have been admitted to the home have had equally positive and individualised experiences. For example, managers ensured that a staff member who the young person knew from the past and liked was on shift at key times.

This careful planning based on young people's individual needs, supports young people to feel valued and to place their trust in staff. As one young person said, 'Staff are really helpful, they are there to talk to and they listen to you.'

All young people are benefiting from being involved in education at varying levels. This was not the case for some young people when they arrived at the home. Strong links with educational professionals and thorough planning and follow-up mean that all young people now have valuable opportunities to develop existing skills and learn new ones.

Behaviour management in this home is relationship based, and staff and young people clearly enjoy spending relaxed time together. An external colleague described staff and managers as being 'child-centred and nurturing while maintaining clear and consistent boundaries'. Consequently, formal behaviour strategies, such as physical restraint and sanctions, are rarely needed. Instead, relationship-based incentives and restorative justice are used as necessary.

All young people are involved to varying degrees with measuring their own progress through using a straightforward template. Progress is underpinned by attractive incentives and young people think this system is both 'fair' and 'better than nagging'. Young people do make good progress, especially in their emotional stability and with their health needs.

There is strong safeguarding knowledge and experience among most staff and managers. As a result, safeguarding practice is sound and confidently delivered, for example through the actions taken following a rare missing-from-home episode. External colleagues recognised this and positively referred to the home's effective use of contextual safeguarding in keeping young people safer.

Staff feel well supported both by their highly effective management team and by each other. Morale is good, and staff work together in a child-centred and consistent

fashion. Staff know young people well and take pride in their achievements and progress.

At the last inspection there was one requirement relating to ensuring that young people were subject to regular risk assessments. A detailed format for risk assessments is now in place that is supported by a clear visual and numerical scale. This requirement has been met well.

There were also two recommendations at the last inspection. The first related to establishing a protocol with the police regarding their involvement with the home. The second recommendation related to ensuring that there was a consistent independent visitor to the home. Both these recommendations have been thoroughly implemented.

Information about this inspection

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.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, 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: 1229977

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX1 1ND

Responsible individual: Daniel Ruaux

Registered manager: Catherine Partlett

Inspector

Bridget Goddard, Social Care Inspector

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