

1255748

Assurance visit

Information about this children's home

The home is run by an independent provider. The home provides care and accommodation for a maximum of five children and young people who have social, emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since October 2019.

Visit dates: 22 to 23 September 2020

Previous inspection date: 15 July 2019

Previous inspection judgement: Requires improvement to be good

Information about this visit

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Ofsted suspended all routine inspections in March 2020. As part of a phased return to routine inspection, we are undertaking assurance visits to children's social care services that are inspected under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF).

At these visits, inspectors evaluate the extent to which:

- children are well cared for
- children are safe
- leaders and managers are exercising strong leadership.

This visit was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000, following the published guidance for assurance visits.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's social care system has delivered child-centred practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Findings from the visit

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance visit.

The care of children

The home has made significant improvements since the last inspection. Children receive a good quality of care. They have comfortable relationships with staff, who understand their needs. One social worker described a 'remarkable difference' in their child's demeanour and added that the child is 'doing fantastically'.

The manager and staff team have worked hard to ensure that there are clear routines and boundaries. Children benefit from these. All children have education placements and are attending school, college or an alternative placement. A social worker said, 'She has completed her qualifications and they [the staff at the home] were instrumental in ensuring she completed her course at the school. She left achieving something.' Children remained occupied and active during the COVID-19 restrictions and were encouraged to complete a nationally recognised qualification.

Children are supported well to maintain contact with the people who matter to them. During the COVID-19 lockdown, staff worked creatively to use technology to aid contact. Face-to-face contact has recently resumed.

Placement matching is well thought out and is based on the skills of the staff team. On occasion, relationships between children have become negative. The manager worked swiftly to identify the cause and worked with children and professionals to address the difficulties in the home.

The safety of children

Children are kept safe. Positive relationships between staff and children, and the staff's understanding of potential risks, have helped to reduce the number of incidents. Children who have previously been at risk of going missing from the home have been supported to stop going missing.

Managers and leaders have a sound understanding of the safeguarding policy and procedures. They ensure that the staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities, such as what to do if a child brings a concern to them. Contact is made with safeguarding agencies when necessary and safeguarding processes are followed. When staff practice falls short, appropriate action is taken by managers to ensure that children remain safe. Investigations are rigorous and detailed. The manager is developing a strong safeguarding culture.

Multi-agency partners, including the designated officer and police, gave positive feedback about the home.

Leaders and managers

A strong and capable manager is leading and developing the home. The manager is pragmatic and realistic in her approach. She knows that, despite improvements since

the last inspection, there are still areas for development. She has a development plan and remains focused on improving outcomes for children.

There have been several staffing changes since the last inspection. The newly formed staff and management team has a shared vision to ensure that all children benefit from the best possible care. Children are benefiting from a stable staff team.

Staff spoken to all identified positives in their work. They feel that they have been supported well through the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff say that managers are accessible and available for support.

External monitoring processes help the manager to identify areas for improvement. The independent visitor provides a thorough analysis of the home and its effectiveness. Their monthly reports demonstrate objectivity and clarity about areas that could be improved.

All requirements and the recommendation made at the last inspection are met. No shortfalls were identified at this visit.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1255748

Registered provider: Homes2Inspire

Registered provider address: Suite 3h, Valiant Office Suites, Valley Drive, Swift Valley Industrial Estate, Rugby CV21 1TQ

Responsible individual: Kelly Gliszczynski

Registered manager: Rachel Rodriguez Rosario

Inspector

Catherine Honey, Social Care Inspector

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