

1236625

Assurance visit

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Visit dates: 15 to 16 September 2020

Previous inspection date: 18 December 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 children at this home are settled. Children have trusting relationships with staff, who have a good understanding of their needs.

Children have been supported to make significant progress in a short length of time. Children who have previously not engaged in education are now engaged. A social worker said, 'The progress we have seen here has not been seen in the many previous placements. It is fantastic.'

Arrangements have been put in place to ensure a safe response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff feel well supported and children have coped well with the situation. Despite initial concerns, staff feel that the time has been positive for themselves and the children. Relationships have thrived during this time.

Children have been busy taking part in a variety of activities, including learning independent living skills. The children benefit from nurturing care. They enjoy fun interactions with staff and each other.

Children are supported to see people who matter to them. Plans are monitored and reviewed appropriately in line with children's well-being. The manager acts as a strong advocate for children's rights. Children share their views on a regular basis. Children know how to complain and report feeling comfortable to do so.

The safety of children

Staff understand how to manage risks and keep children safe. Children can describe the risks associated with COVID-19. They explain the work that staff have done with them to help them to keep safe.

The positive relationships between staff and children have helped to reduce the number of incidents. Children who have previously placed themselves at risk by going missing from the home have been well supported to stop missing episodes.

Staff are clear about the risks associated with children's online activity. Safety measures are in place and regularly reviewed. Staff engage children well so that they develop a good understanding of how to stay safe online.

Staff have continued to engage in training about safeguarding. New staff have been well supported to understand the potential impact of abuse and neglect on children's behaviour.

Leaders and managers

The home now has an experienced registered manager who is supported by a newly appointed deputy manager. The registered manager is a good role model and mentor. The manager has fully addressed shortfalls identified at the last inspection.

Staff report significant improvements in the running of the home since the registered manager has taken up his post. Staff have good supervision arrangements and say that they are well supported. During the pandemic, staff have worked well together, providing stability and a sense of security for children.

Stakeholder feedback confirms that children have made significant progress in the relatively short length of time that they have lived at the home.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1236625

Registered provider: Happy Group (UK) Limited

Registered provider address: West Walk House, 99 Princess Road East, Leicester, Leicestershire LE1 7LF

Responsible individual: Ranjit Bains

Registered manager: Patrick McCabe

Inspector

Bev Allison, Social Care Inspector

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