

1238043

Assurance visit

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five young people who may have emotional or behavioural needs.

There is a manager in post who has been registered with Ofsted since June 2018.

Visit dates: 15 to 16 September 2020

Previous inspection date: 11 March 2019

Previous inspection judgement: Improved effectiveness

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

Most young people make good progress. Young people receive effective care and enjoy good experiences. However, one young person has lived through some negative events, due to the behaviours of another resident.

Staff are skilled in developing relationships with young people who have previously struggled to engage with carers. These positive relationships support young people's progress and emotional well-being. A parent said, 'They have time for him and really make an effort. I think he feels that, and it makes him want to do well.'

Staff have a good understanding of young people's needs and plan their care accordingly. Staff ensure that young people have access to additional services, such as healthcare, where necessary. Young people's care plans demonstrate that their views are encouraged and considered.

Staff understand the importance of education and ensure that young people receive the support they need to access appropriate learning or training opportunities. The young person who currently lives in the home has made very positive progress from his starting point and is now attending education for the first time in several years. His social worker commented that this is testament to the support he receives at the home.

The safety of children

The home cares for young people with complex needs. There are often significant concerns about young people at the point of their admission. For most young people, risks relating to their care have reduced significantly over time.

Reducing risks has resulted in positive outcomes for several young people. For example, a court order restricting some aspects of one young person's liberty was removed due to the positive progress she had made at the home.

Staff work closely with external professionals to identify and manage risk. There are clear protocols in place for young people who may go missing, and multi-agency risk management plans to safeguard young people at risk of exploitation.

Not all aspects of risk management have been consistently effective. Several incidents have taken place in the home that demonstrate that young people have not received appropriate support overnight. In addition, relationships between young people have not always been managed in a way that prevents them harming each other.

Staff understand young people and why they may behave in certain ways. Staff support young people's positive behaviours in a consistent and constructive manner. This positive support has resulted in a significant reduction in serious incidents for the current resident of the home.

At times, staff use consequences as a way of helping young people to understand the impact of their negative behaviours. However, these are not always proportionate or relevant to the behaviours displayed by the child.

Leaders and managers

There is a suitably qualified and experienced manager in place. Staff and external professionals express confidence in the manager and speak highly of his leadership.

The manager works positively with external agencies to help ensure that young people’s needs are met. The manager demonstrates the ability to challenge professionals in an effective way, in circumstances where a young person’s service is falling short.

Staff express confidence in the manager and report good levels of support and training. The provider has taken steps to ensure that staff continue to benefit from training, including face-to-face training in physical intervention, throughout the pandemic.

There is a stable staff team in place. This means that young people receive their care from a consistent team that knows them well. However, staffing arrangements have not always been suitable in terms of ensuring that young people receive safe and effective care overnight.

The manager makes use of monitoring processes to identify shortfalls and improve the care provided to young people. However, these have not always been effective in terms of learning from adverse incidents that have occurred in the home.

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child’s relevant plans, and, if</p>	30/10/2020

<p>necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(1)(2)(a)(i)(iv))</p>	
<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—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child;</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home.</p> <p>(Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(2)(d)(h))</p>	<p>30/10/2020</p>

Recommendations

- Any sanctions used to address poor behaviour should be restorative in nature, relevant to the behaviour and proportionate, to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour on themselves, other children, the staff caring for them and the wider community. (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 47, paragraph 9.38).

Children’s home details

Unique reference number: 1238043

Registered provider: Nurture Childcare Services Ltd

Registered provider address: 71 Edge End Lane, Great Harwood, Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 7QD

Responsible individual: Danielle Moorby

Registered manager: Carl Pixton

Inspector

Marie Cordingley, Social Care Inspector

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