

1269421

# Assurance visit

## Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people. It is owned and operated by a large private provider.

The main purpose of this home will be to prepare young people for their independence.

**Visit dates:** 10 to 11 December 2020

**Previous inspection date:** 18 December 2019

**Previous inspection judgement:** 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**

Staff provide consistent care and support to young people. This enables young people to develop positive relationships with staff. They feel able to talk to staff about their needs or worries and their plans.

Healthcare is a priority in this home. Staff are proactive and work alongside a range of healthcare professionals. Effective partnership work helps to promote young people's health and ensures that health needs are met.

Education, care and therapy enable young people to grow and develop. Consistency between the different teams/disciplines is supported by clear communication.

The progress young people make is not linear. Managers and staff understand the process of change and know how to manage behaviours. This promotes successful long-term outcomes.

A strength of this home is the focus on supporting and promoting a positive sense of identity. Diversity is understood and celebrated. Consequently, young people feel understood and valued.

## **The safety of children**

Safeguarding practice continues to be steadfast. Young people have had no safeguarding incidents since the last inspection.

Risks are well understood. Clear plans are put in place, with strategies to minimise potential risk. As risks to young people reduce, they begin to benefit from increased levels of unsupervised time.

Safeguarding practice is audited through rigorous internal monitoring and by external quality assurance. This ensures the high safeguarding standards.

## **Leaders and managers**

The registered manager remains passionate about providing outstanding care. This commitment and practice enables young people to flourish. Young people leave the home with skills and practical knowledge. This provides a firm foundation for a successful transition to independence.

The current residents are in long-term placements. They are achieving their potential. They plan to move on to their college and vocational studies when the COVID-19 measures are relaxed.

Managers and staff are aspirational for young people. They advocate on their behalf. This supports young people's best interests.

Managers promote the professional development of staff. Most of the team is qualified to level 3 or working towards this qualification. The staff are provided with

a full training programme, which they embrace. This means that young people benefit from care delivered by a knowledgeable and experienced staff team.

Partnership arrangements with professionals and families ensure that care planning for young people is progressed. Consultation with young people empowers them to contribute to their care plans.

## **Children's home details**

**Unique reference number:** 1269421

**Registered provider:** Priory Education Services Limited

**Registered provider address:** Priory Group, 80 Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UD

**Responsible individual:** Katherine Bridon

**Registered manager:** Daniel Grant

## **Inspector**

Amanda Ellis, Social Care Inspector

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