

# 1234621

**Priory Education Services Limited**

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## **Information about this children's home**

The home, which is run by a large national organisation, provides care for up to five children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2020.

**Inspection date:** 20 January 2021

## **This monitoring visit**

The children's home was judged to be good at the last full inspection, on 13 September 2018. This monitoring visit was undertaken as the home has not had an on-site visit since this inspection.

The home was not operational between January 2020 and July 2020 and had a condition in place that required the provider to give Ofsted three months' notice before admitting a child. The condition was lifted, and the home resumed operation in July 2020 following a virtual monitoring visit by Ofsted. The purpose of the monitoring visit in July was to satisfy Ofsted that the home had made suitable arrangements to reopen.

At the time of this monitoring visit, the home was caring for two children. One child moved into the home in November 2020, the second child joined the home soon after, at the beginning of December 2020. The focus of this monitoring visit was on the home's referral and matching process.

The manager undertakes detailed impact risk assessments to help inform decisions about whether the home can meet a child's needs. These assessments include an assessment of the risks that children may present with at the home and in the community and to each other. The manager said that both children's needs are higher than identified at the referral stage and during planning. This was due to a combination of change to the associated professionals and restrictions imposed due

to COVID-19. The manager was reflective of this experience and how she can improve the process.

Currently, the staff are caring for children with very different needs. The staff have undertaken relevant training, which has helped them to understand how to support each child.

One child will be moving to a more specialist provision in February 2021. Planning is under way, and staff will be supporting the child with the move.

Although the children have different routines and interests, there are no concerns about their relationship with each other. Staffing levels enable both children to have one-to-one attention, which means that they can do things individually.

One child has low engagement in education and with staff when experiencing low mood. Staff are supporting this child with serious incidents of self-harm. The manager has arranged bespoke training, supported by the home's therapist, to provide staff with strategies for responding to specific self-harming behaviour.

Staff are managing incidents of self-harm in line with the child's safety plan. The child's social worker said that she is 'impressed with staff's professionalism and calm but firm approach' in dealing with incidents.

The manager escalated her concerns about a child's unmet mental health needs with the child-in-care nurse. This resulted in a professionals' meeting to identify a lead service.

Due to the level of children's needs, a waking night member of staff has been put in place. Waking night staff are currently being provided by an agency. The manager does not routinely confirm that all safer recruitment checks are in place for agency staff. This does not provide the manager with the information that she needs to assess the suitability of these staff before they work at the home.

The house is spacious and decorated to a good standard. All bedrooms have their own bathrooms. Children's rooms are personalised. Children have access to a large enclosed garden and a separate woodland garden situated at the back of the property. An annex area offers children additional space for spending time with family and a quiet space for arts and crafts or focusing on learning, in addition to a therapy room.

At the last inspection, a requirement was raised in relation to monitoring and recording incidents of physical intervention. There have been no incidents of physical intervention since the home reopened. Although the inspector was unable to evidence that this requirement has been met, the home is not breaching this regulation. The requirement has, therefore, been removed. Two recommendations

from the last inspection remain as these were not reviewed as part of this focused monitoring visit.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/09/2018	Full	Good
10/08/2017	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
31/05/2017	Full	Good
23/11/2016	Full	Good

## 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 registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety.</p> <p>The registered person may only—</p> <p>employ an individual to work at the children's home; or</p> <p>if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home,</p> <p>if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3).</p> <p>The requirements are that—</p> <p>full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(d))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that checks are in place for agency staff working at the home.</p>	27 January 2021

### Recommendations

- The registered person should help each child to prepare for any moves from the home, whether they are returning home, moving to another placement or adult care, or to live independently. This includes supporting the child to develop emotional and mental resilience to cope without the home's support and, when the child is moving to live independently, practical skills such as cooking, housework, budgeting and personal self-care. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 17, paragraph 3.27)
- The registered person should consult children regularly on their views about the home's care, to inform and support continued improvement in the quality of care provided. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.11)

## **Information about this inspection**

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

## **Children's home details**

**Unique reference number:** 1234621

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Priory Education Services Limited

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

**Responsible individual:** Leon Brandon

**Registered manager:** Alison Sherman

## **Inspector**

Paula Edwards, Social Care Inspector

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