

1233310

Birtenshaw

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is part of a large charitable organisation. The home provides care and accommodation for up to three children who may have learning disabilities.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2020.

Inspection date: 2 March 2021

This monitoring visit

This visit was completed off site. The purpose of the visit was to ensure that children are safe and that their needs are being met. The home has not been inspected since 16 April 2019.

Suitable action has been taken to address the three requirements from the last inspection. The home continues to use a 'locked-door policy'. This is proportionate to managing the risk of children exiting out onto a road. Use of this measure is reflected in children's plans and recorded appropriately. The team is much more stable than previously reported. This has provided children with better continuity of care. Copies of statutory documents are now on file.

A recommendation from the previous visit is carried over. This recommendation relates to medication management and was not considered during this visit.

Children are cared for by a dedicated and competent team of staff. The staff are led by a manager who is child focused and ambitious for the children living at the home. A parent described him as being 'solution focused, and always wanting to improve opportunities for the children in his care'.

Feedback from parents and professionals is very complimentary about how children are supported and the progress they make. One social worker said, 'The staff take a really joined-up approach and make sure everybody that needs to be involved in care planning is.' The social worker also said, 'I am more than happy with the care

and support offered to [name of child]. [Name of child] is very settled and making very good progress.'

The inspector was given a virtual tour of the home. Communal areas have been decorated in a way that provides a stimulating environment for children with sensory needs. This theme continues in children's bedrooms, which are personalised and child friendly. One social worker said, 'The home is lovely and [name of child] is free to move around her home. [Name of child] especially likes the sensory room and spends lots of time in there. The home is geared up to care for children with complex needs.'

Children's safety is given a high priority. High staffing ratios provide children with the necessary support to keep them safe. Detailed risk management plans are understood and implemented by staff. These are kept under constant review to ensure that the strategies being used are effective in reducing risk. For example, staff have supported a child to better manage and reduce sexualised behaviour, despite not being trained in this area.

There has been one allegation since Ofsted last visited the home. Suitable action was taken including referral to the designated officer. However, in-house records were incomplete and did not provide evidence of the decisions made by external safeguarding professionals or the outcome of the incident. This information was acquired later during the visit from elsewhere in the organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/04/2019	Full	Good
23/01/2019	Full	Good
31/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
24/04/2017	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, the 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 prepare and implement a policy which—</p> <p>provide for records to be kept of an allegation of abuse or neglect, and the action taken in response. (Regulation 34 (1)(d))</p> <p>Specifically, ensure that the home's records are organised and include a full account of what action was taken and the outcome of any allegation.</p>	6 April 2021

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff receive training in working with children who display sexually harmful behaviour. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.12)
- The registered person should ensure that a detailed record of when medication is transferred between home and school and that records include the time that medication is administered to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', paragraph 7.15, page 35)

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: 1233310

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Birtenshaw

Registered provider address: Darwen Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9AB

Responsible individual: David Reid

Registered manager: Craig Parkinson

Inspector

Paul Scott, Social Care Inspector

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