

1271666

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a local authority. It provides care and accommodation for up to four children with a range of social, emotional and behavioural needs. The manager has been registered since April 2020.

Inspection date: 11 March 2021

This monitoring visit

Owing to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the home last had a full inspection in September 2019. The manager was registered after this date. The purpose of this monitoring visit was to explore the children's experiences, particularly given the date of the last inspection, and to look at the quality of the leadership and management of the home.

This monitoring visit was completed remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. One child helpfully provided a live video tour of the home and garden, and all three children spoke to the inspector during this video call.

The inspector interviewed the manager, acting assistant manager and two staff members. To gather information for this visit, records were received via email. Independent feedback was obtained from a social worker, an education professional and a family member. They all spoke positively about the care provided to the children. One said, 'The team is very proactive and always willing to go that step further to put the children's needs first.'

The video tour provided a good overview of the home. There were no concerns about the condition of the house, which presents as homely and well furnished. One child showed the inspector her personalised bedroom and described her home as being 'welcoming, warm, nice and cosy'.

Children have lived at the home for a significant period of time and are settled, happy and making ongoing progress. The children experience stability and have

good relationships with staff who provide warm and loving care. The manager works with other professionals, which results in all the children attending appropriate educational provision for their needs. One child is receiving extra home tuition due to the gaps in education as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The children benefit from the staff's nurturing care, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The staff provide emotional support. For example, they supported the children when they had to self-isolate and experienced grief and loss. Staff talk to the children about the pandemic to help ease their anxieties.

The manager and staff team know the children well and this helps the staff recognise when a child may want to abscond or engage in risky behaviour. When children leave the home without permission, staff follow closely to make sure the children do not put themselves in risky situations. Children feel safe because of staff's actions and they are at a reduced risk of exploitation from others.

Children have learned to self-regulate their emotions. There has been a reduction in the times the children need to be held by staff to keep them safe. The children have regular chats with staff and planned key-work sessions. They can talk about issues affecting their lives and are able to express their emotions. This helps them to engage with other professionals and services if needed, such as child sexual exploitation workers.

The children could name staff members that they trust. The children know how to complain. When children raise concerns, the manager fully investigates these complaints. The children feel listened to and that their concerns are taken seriously.

The home is now run by a registered manager, with support from an established senior team. This provides management stability for staff. Staff spoken to feel supported by the managers, who have an open-door approach for the children and staff.

The staff team benefits from regular supervision and team meetings. The children are the centre of the discussions and the staff have many opportunities to reflect on their practice. Alongside training, the staff's knowledge of safeguarding and the relevant statutory guidance gets tested within team meetings. This provides ongoing development opportunities.

The manager has met all the requirements and recommendations from the previous inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/09/2019	Full	Good
13/02/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

15/08/2018

Full

Good

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: 1271666

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Registered provider address: City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, City Hall, Centenary Square, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1HY

Responsible individual: Mark Trinder

Registered manager: Johanne Cottle

Inspector

Tina Ruffles, Social Care Inspector

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