

# 1241897

Registered provider: Pathways Care Group

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides a full-time treatment programme over 12 to 15 months for children with traumatic backgrounds, behavioural or mental health difficulties, and who have either experienced or are at risk of sexual exploitation.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2022.

**Inspection date:** 5 January 2022

**Date of last inspection:** 22 July 2021

**Judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## **This inspection**

### **The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection**

The home was judged as requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has declined in effectiveness.

The manager has addressed four of the seven requirements that were raised at the last inspection. However, significant shortfalls in safeguarding children have been identified at this inspection. The two requirements that have been raised at this inspection encompass the outstanding and newly identified shortfalls.

One child has been able to store 12 litres of hazardous flammable liquids in their bedroom without question. The staff have failed to take appropriate action to remove the hazardous liquids in accordance with the child's risk assessments. The manager and staff were aware that the child had previously stored hazardous liquid material in the bedroom. Despite this knowledge, staff did not identify the storage and purchase of these materials as a safeguarding concern. The child has purchased these materials without any challenge from the staff. This shows a lack of professional curiosity and a lack of understanding of the risks that these liquids pose. The staff have failed to explore why the child purchased these liquids. Consequently, no further action has been taken to ensure the safety of the child.

One child's bedroom had rubbish on the floor that included alcohol packaging, sweet wrappers and crisp packets. There were two lighters in the child's bedroom. The staff have failed to notice and remove these potential hazards. Leaving these items in the child's bedroom is not in accordance with the child's risk assessment and fails to keep children safe.

The staff support the children to engage in education. One child's social worker said that the child's school attendance has improved since living at the home. Staff supported the child to produce an art portfolio and apply to a local college for a place. The manager and staff listen to children's views and sensitively advocate for them. This helps children to feel confident to attend education and apply for further education.

Staff vacancies have been filled. During the recruitment process, required checks have been comprehensively carried out. This ensures the suitability of new staff.

The staff receive induction and supervision in line with the home's supervision policy. Staff said that they feel supported and listened to by managers. Training requests from staff are proactively explored and appropriate training is arranged. Staff have benefited from training that increases their knowledge and equips them with the skills to support the children's emotional well-being.

One child has moved into the home since the last inspection. Detailed information from the placing local authority was reviewed by the manager and a thorough risk assessment was made before the child moved in. Therefore, the matching of the child to the children already living at the home was effective. The new child's social worker confirmed that the planning process was thorough and supported a smooth introduction. Consequently, the child has settled well and is making good progress.

The staff generally carry out regular fire drills. However, the most-recently admitted child has not participated in a full fire drill. This failure could put the child at risk of harm if there is a fire.

Although a significant concern was identified at this inspection in respect of one child, risk assessments have generally improved. The manager ensures that these are now signed and dated and read by the staff. One child is supported to meet up with a friend fortnightly. The staff plan and risk assess a community activity so that the child can enjoy and benefit from supervised contact with a friend who lives a distance from the home. As a result of this, episodes of the child going missing from the home have reduced considerably.

Improvements have been made to the home's interior since the last inspection. The manager has arranged for rooms in the home to be decorated by a local artist. The lounge area is warm and welcoming. Children are encouraged to display their artwork around the home. This supports the children's sense of pride and belonging.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/07/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/02/2020	Full	Good
11/04/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/02/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

## 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— 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 necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child;</p> <p>help each child to understand how to keep safe;</p> <p>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare;</p> <p>that the home's day to day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(b))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that:</p> <p>managers and all staff understand and implement risk assessments;</p> <p>all hazardous materials are stored appropriately and risk assessed;</p>	7 February 2022

<p>managers and staff demonstrate awareness and professional curiosity of the presenting risks for all children and take the necessary action to mitigate those risks, including through establishing the circumstances and understanding the children's activities when not in the home;</p> <p>managers and staff help children to understand how to keep themselves safe through conversation, recorded discussion and positive role modelling.</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>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>se monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(h))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that the environment is monitored effectively and that appropriate action is taken to remove hazards.</p>	<p>16 February 2022</p>

\* This requirement is subject to a compliance notice.

## Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** 1241897

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

**Registered provider:** Pathways Care Group

**Registered provider address:** Minton Place, Victoria Street, Windsor SL4 1EG

**Responsible individual:** Olubunmi Fabusuyi

**Registered manager:** Kian Tracey

## Inspector

Rachel Watkinson, Social Care Inspector

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