

1236916

Registered provider: Utopia Children's Services Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private provider and offers care for up to three children and young people. The provider states in its statement of purpose that care is provided for children and young people with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties.

The registered manager has been in post since the home was registered in June 2016.

Inspection date: 21 February 2022

Date of last inspection: 11 May 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

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has sustained effectiveness.

At the full inspection on 11 May 2021, six requirements were made. There were concerns about whether all of the children's needs could be met and the leadership and management of the home.

Since then, the manager and staff have worked well to provide the three children who have continued to live in the home with positive experiences. The inspection found that the requirements are now met.

Children have made progress since the previous inspection. That said, not all the children are making sufficient progress. All of the children have had access to learning opportunities, and records evidence the attempts made by staff to ensure that the children remain motivated and engaged with their learning. For two of the children living in the home, their engagement with learning means they are attending college regularly and engaging with their home tutor. Two of the children told the inspector that they had plans to learn to drive and complete their education.

Staff support the children to visit their family and friends. One child has been able to develop his confidence sufficiently to be able to use public transport safely, and there are plans in place to support this child to learn to travel independently.

Unfortunately, despite attempts made by the staff and professionals, one child has for the most part disengaged with their education. Furthermore, this child is choosing to not always participate in the social activities the staff provide. For this reason, this child is not in education or training and is refusing to accept support for their mental health. The manager is working closely with the local authority to make plans to remedy this situation.

Since the previous inspection, staff have completed several training courses and say that they receive regular supervision. This has helped them to better support the children. One member of staff told the inspector that they felt the home was more settled and staff are consistent in how they support the children.

The children have been consulted with and involved in the improvement of the home environment. There are spaces in the home dedicated to the children's education and there are plans to update the children's bathroom.

Since the previous inspection, there have been no notifiable incidents and in the main staff are better placed to support the children. When incidents have taken

place, there is evidence of management oversight and internal investigations are completed in line with protocol.

No requirements or recommendations were made following this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/01/2020	Interim	Improved effectiveness
24/07/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/01/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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: 1236916

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Utopia Children's Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Unit 9, Wheatstone Court, Waterwells Business Park, Davy Way, Gloucester GL2 2AQ

Responsible individual: Louis Stuart-Kelso

Registered manager: Leon James

Inspector

Linda Bond, Social Care Inspector

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