

2509473

Registered provider: Back on Track Children's Services SE Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately-owned home registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children. According to its statement of purpose, the home is for children who have experienced abuse, neglect or childhood trauma.

The service and the manager were registered with Ofsted on 12 February 2019.

Inspection date: 8 January 2020

Date of last inspection: 21 May 2019

Judgement at last inspection: 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 good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

Leaders and managers, responsible for the day-to-day running of the home, have not always maintained full control over its physical condition. They have allowed changes to be introduced that have either undermined the homely atmosphere or posed potential risks to the children. Although specific issues identified during the inspection were immediately rectified, those leaders with regulatory responsibilities are not currently fully empowered to meet these, and the wider leadership arrangements in the organisation require review.

During this inspection period, the children have continued to develop feelings of belonging and have made progress with their learning. Although there have been periods when the home has been unsettled, the relationships between the children and staff have strengthened. The staff's understanding of the children's needs has become more refined. Staff display good knowledge and understanding of the children in their care.

During times of disruption, and difficulty in ensuring the safety and well-being of the children, staff work effectively as a team and closely with external agencies. Despite being understaffed, the staff team has been able to maintain the safety and well-being of the children as a priority during periods of increased demand.

The children enjoy a high-quality and well-maintained home situated in a settled neighbourhood. Aspects of the home, however, require further attention to increase the homely atmosphere and provide opportunities for the children to express their individuality and increase feelings of belonging and permanence.

The requirement and recommendations set at the last inspection have been fully addressed. The registered manager shows motivation and commitment to address all the issues identified at this inspection, as well as the further development of this new home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/05/2019	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 ‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’.

Requirement	Due date
<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— promotes their welfare. (Regulation 13(1)(b))</p> <p>In particular, managers should ensure that any changes to the home are approved by the relevant people and are in the best interests of children.</p>	31/03/2020

Recommendations

- As outlined in 10.1, the registered person should plan staffing levels to ensure that they meet the needs of children and can respond flexibly to unexpected events or opportunities. Staffing structures should promote continuity of care from the child’s perspective. (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 54, paragraph 10.15)
Specifically, ensure that staffing levels are sufficient for children to maintain good mental and physical health.
- For children’s homes to be nurturing and supportive environments that meet the needs of their children, they will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. Children’s homes must comply with relevant health and safety legislations (alarms, food hygiene etc.); however, in doing so, homes should seek as far as possible to maintain a domestic rather than ‘institutional’ impression. (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- As with all the Quality Standards, the responsibilities and accountabilities in this standard fall on the registered person. In practice, just as with the other standards, those responsible for the day to day running of homes, play a key role in enabling the registered person to fulfil the requirements of this standard (the leadership and management standard). (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 52, paragraph 10.2)

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: 2509473

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Back on Track Children's Services SE Ltd

Registered provider address: 185 Dover Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7NB

Responsible individual: John McDonald-Baker

Registered manager: Katie Smissen

Inspector:

John Pledger, Social Care Inspector

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