

1232171

Registered provider: In Safe Hands Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. The home provides care for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It provides care for up to three children.

At the time of inspection, two children were living in the home. Two children were spoken to as part of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2016 and is suitably skilled and qualified.

Inspection dates: 16 and 17 July 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 31 May 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/05/2023	Full	Good
03/08/2022	Full	Good
02/08/2021	Full	Good
16/07/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have built secure and trusting relationships with the staff in the home. Regular key-work sessions demonstrate positive relationships between children and their key workers and a sense of understanding. One child finds it very difficult to form relationships, but the staff are continuing to support her in slowly building these with other members of staff, who are determined to build this bond. This supports children's relationships and feelings of safety.

One child attends school full time and is achieving in education. Another child is struggling to access their educational provision and, as a result, has missed out on a lot of education opportunities. However, the staff support the child to attend school as much as possible and have a good understanding of how best to do this. Life skills are offered by staff at the home to provide additional support to the children. This promotes the children's learning and independence.

The staff have not used restraint in the home since the last inspection despite some challenging behaviours from the children. This demonstrates the positive working relationship that staff have with the children to de-escalate situations without the need for restraint. This promotes children's overall well-being and dignity.

One child has felt safe enough to unpack their belongings in the home, which they have not done before due to their anxieties since they entered care. Staff and other professionals feel that this is positive progress and demonstrates that the child feels safe and secure in their environment.

Children are supported to engage in activities and extra-curricular clubs. One child is regularly attending cadets, which is supporting his independence and socialisation skills. Another child is taken by staff on trips to the seaside and cinema. A range of activities in and out of the home are offered to children, and staff encourage them to take part. This promotes children's well-being and positive experiences.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

When a child goes missing from home, staff follow the procedures and record information accurately. The relevant authorities are contacted, and return-home interviews are offered to the child. Staff are debriefed upon the child's return, to reflect on the incident. Welfare checks from staff and police also take place upon the child's return. Key-working sessions that explore the feelings of the child and the reason for their missing episode take place. This helps children and staff to understand and reflect on what has happened in an attempt to prevent this happening again.

Children are supported to take age-appropriate risks, in line with their care plans, to develop independence skills. Risk assessments are available that detail the management

of the risk for staff, alongside the benefits to the child of taking this assessed risk. This promotes the rights and independence of children in the home.

The manager and staff keep in regular contact with external professionals to share information and develop plans to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in the home. The manager has good relationships with external agencies, such as the police, which provide an added layer of safety, especially for the child who goes missing. This multi-agency approach supports the protection of the children.

Risk assessments are in place for each child and individualised to their needs. However, not all staff fully understand the risks that are specific to the children and how to respond to these effectively without strong management oversight. Some members of staff have not had training or updated training regarding the key risk areas for the children. This is likely to have an impact on the ability to independently safeguard children in the home.

While the home does have adequate fire safety measures and internal checks in place, staff have not consulted with the fire and rescue authority for additional oversight. This may have an impact on the safety of children and staff in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has a good understanding of the children and their needs. The manager advocates well for the children and has their best interests at heart. The manager engages in direct work with the children and remains involved in their day-to-day care. The management team is present in the home on a regular basis, including late into the night to check in with their night staff. This presence in the home helps staff to feel supported.

Staffing is consistent and agency workers are not used. When staff are not able to come to work, the management team ensures that shifts are covered. Often, staff and management will offer their own time to cover shifts. This promotes consistency in the care of the children and enables the children to have a good sense of security in their home.

Feedback from professionals and family has been positive about the staff and management. Professionals say that they are informed of any changes or developments, and that the manager attends all meetings required of him. Feedback from a parent stated the staff were 'amazing', and the parent feels that her child has made a lot of progress as a result of their care.

While some staff understand the expected behaviour for themselves and the children, there remains some staff who are not clear on what these standards are. This has resulted in children being given different boundaries to what has been agreed by management and written in policies. Some members of staff do not appropriately challenge children on their behaviours. This impacts the children's learning of appropriate behaviour and boundaries and may affect their feelings of stability.

While most of the information is recorded effectively in the home, there remains information that has not been updated or adequately explained. The home has numerous documents for the same information, which can cause confusion among staff and may contribute to missed information.

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
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— 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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii))	1 September 2024
After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must— take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of suitable fire equipment in the children's home; provide adequate means of escape from the home in the event of fire; make arrangements for persons working at the home to receive suitable training in fire prevention; and	1 September 2024

ensure, by means of fire drills and practices at suitable intervals, that persons working at the home and, so far as reasonably practicable, children are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire. (Regulation 25 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d))	
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Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the expectations for standards of behaviour are high for all staff and children in the home. The standards should be clear and unambiguous. Poor behaviour should be challenged and discussed, and boundaries made clear around behaviour. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including quality standards', page 39, paragraph 8.11)
- The registered person should review and streamline the recording systems in the home to ensure ease of access and the documenting of information. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including quality standards', page 61, paragraph 14.2)

Information about this 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: 1232171

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: In Safe Hands Care Ltd

Registered provider address: Peter Wray Accountancy Services, 48 50, Wakefield Road, Pontefract, South Yorkshire WF7 7AB

Responsible individual: Terry Carr

Registered manager: Terry Carr

Inspector

Ladean Wilson, Social Care Inspector

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