

1238043

Registered provider: Nurture Childcare Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned by a private organisation. The home provides care for up to four children with social and emotional difficulties.

There were three children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in February 2024.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 December 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: 23 May 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/05/2023	Full	requires improvement to be good
04/01/2023	Full	requires improvement to be good
12/10/2022	Full	inadequate
11/01/2022	Full	good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The children told the inspector that they like living in the home. Staff work hard to build relationships with the children, and they know them well. These relationships help children to feel safe and secure. As a result, children are making progress from their individual starting points. A child's social worker said: '... to see how well they have done, it is amazing. It is a home, not a residential placement.'

Children attend education. The manager and staff have effective relationships with education professionals. This helps them to identify suitable educational placements for children. Staff also advocate for children to ensure education health and care plans have been implemented to help them achieve better outcomes. Staff support children to engage in educational activities and the manager has quickly identified an educational placement for a child who has recently moved into the home.

Managers and staff ensure that children's health needs are met. Children are registered with statutory health services when they move into the home. Managers and staff work hard to identify children's health needs. This includes specialist support. For example, one child is currently undergoing a specialist health assessment.

Care planning is effective. Managers ensure that they obtain information from children's placing authorities before they move into the home. One child has recently moved into the home. Staff welcomed this child sensitively.

Staff work hard to create a homely and nurturing environment for children to live together. For example, staff encourage children to eat meals together and staff support the children to take part in activities together in the community.

The environment is welcoming and homely. Photos and children's achievements are displayed in the home. This helps children to develop a sense of belonging.

Staff encourage children to engage in hobbies and interests. For example, one child attends the gym and another child goes swimming. The staff support the children to enjoy different experiences and this helps children to maintain active lifestyles. One child spends time with their friends in the community.

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

Staff know how to protect the children living in the home. Children told the inspector that they feel safe living in the home. Children said that they can talk to staff if they are worried about anything.

Staff know their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. Staff spoken to demonstrate that they understand safeguarding processes.

The manager has created a culture where there is a diligent response to keeping the children safe. Staff communicate effectively with relevant safeguarding professionals. This helps to provide children with an all-round multi-agency approach. This has led to a reduction in risk, for example self-injurious behaviour.

When room searches have taken place, they have been appropriate, and sensitively completed. This demonstrates that staff respect children's privacy.

Children's risk assessments include their known vulnerabilities and include strategies for staff to follow in practice. However, not all known risks are included in children's risk assessments. Therefore, staff do not always have the most up-to-date information to support children.

An issue regarding the safety of the home environment was identified during the inspection. The manager immediately rectified this.

The recruitment of staff is comprehensive and safe. Recruitment records demonstrate that processes are in place to ensure that only suitable adults work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has the necessary qualifications and skills to manage the home. She is nurturing and knows the children well. She is child-focused and is committed to supporting the children to make progress.

Staff spoken to said they have frequent supervision. Staff describe this as useful, and they talked about how this helps them to improve their practice. This helps the manager to understand staff's strengths and areas of development. When areas of development are identified, the manager takes action to address these and improve staff practice.

Team meetings take place regularly. Records demonstrate that team meetings provide staff with the opportunity to share information about children. This helps to improve staff's caring practices.

Children are cared for by a stable staff team. This provides stability and consistency for children. Staff spoken to said they are supported by the manager. Staff morale is positive.

The manager has effective relationships with professionals and understands the importance of good communication. One child's independent reviewing officer said: 'If I could pick up [name of the home] and replicate it, I would do.'

The manager does not always take sufficient action to obtain children's local authority documentation. This means that staff do not have all relevant information in relation to children.

Leaders and managers have monitoring and review systems in place. However, there are gaps in these systems as information is not always recorded. This limits the overall effectiveness of these systems.

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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children's risk assessments contain up-to-date information and include all known behaviours.	3 February 2025
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that all information is recorded in children's plans to help them to continuously monitor children's care effectively.	3 February 2025

In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to involve each child’s placing authority effectively in the child’s care, in accordance with the child’s relevant plans; if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority’s or a relevant person’s performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child’s needs are met in accordance with the child’s relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (a)(c)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that there is no delay in obtaining children’s relevant plans from the children’s local authority and take appropriate steps when required.	3 February 2025
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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: 1238043

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Nurture Childcare Services Limited

Registered provider address: Seighford Hall, Clanford Road, Seighford, Stafford ST18 9NL

Responsible individual: David Shaw

Registered manager: Charlene Bentley

Inspector

Sally Croft, Social Care Inspector

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