

1240449

Registered provider: Idem Living Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company and provides care for up to three disabled children.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2021.

Inspection date: 22 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 12 October 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 improved effectiveness.

Children are settled and enjoy good relationships with staff. They receive individualised care that is in line with their assessed needs.

Children are encouraged to pursue their hobbies and interests. Personal choice is encouraged and staffing levels are sufficient to support both individual and group activities. This is enabling children to lead active and fulfilling lives. For example, one child is a season ticket holder for the football team he supports.

Staff are supporting children to overcome their anxieties and try new activities. Careful and sensitive planning has taken place with one child who was anxious about visiting the hairdressers. Staff helped the child to prepare for the visit by using photos of the shop and the route they would take to get there. This helped to reassure the child and enabled him to better manage his anxieties.

Children are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms to reflect their individual tastes. This gives children a sense of permeance and helps them to feel at home. One child has decorated his bedroom in the colours of his football team and has lots of football memorabilia on display. Communal areas of the home are generally well decorated and maintained. However, some soft furnishings are tired and marked. This detracts from the homely atmosphere. A recommendation has been made to address this.

Children are maturing and growing in confidence. One child has developed new friendships at the local college he attends. He has recently arranged to socialise with his friends after college.

There have been no incidents of physical restraint at the home. This demonstrates the ability of staff to de-escalate challenging situations. Children are encouraged to reflect on their behaviours and this is supporting them to better regulate their emotional responses.

All children have behaviour support plans which detail how staff should support them if they become upset and/or frustrated. However, there have been occasions when staff have attempted to diffuse incidents using strategies that are not included in children's plans. These strategies were less effective and contributed to the incidents being more prolonged. A recommendation has been made to ensure that staff practice is aligned to children's support plans.

Improvements have been made to children's individual risk management plans. They now contain more up-to-date information about known risks to the safety of children. However, one risk assessment was not clear about the level of supervision a child required during a particular activity. A recommendation has been made to address this.

Managers have taken effective action to address the shortfalls identified at the last full inspection. This has led to improvements to the children's experiences and to the arrangements in place to safeguard them.

Since the last inspection, the manager has taken effective action to recruit sufficient staff. However, this issue is not fully resolved as newly recruited staff are not yet in post. The staff team is working hard to cover vacancies in the staff roster and the use of agency staff has reduced.

While improvements have been made to the frequency of formal supervision for staff, the frequency is not in line with that identified in the provider's statement of purpose. The requirement has been repeated at this inspection to secure improvement.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/10/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/07/2019	Full	Good
22/05/2018	Full	Good
08/02/2018	Interim	Improved 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
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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(e))	8 May 2022
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)(c))	8 May 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff have read, understood and act in accordance with children's behaviour support plans. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.10)
- The registered person should ensure that tired and worn internal furnishings are replaced in a timely manner. This specifically relates to the sofas in the lounge. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

- The registered person should ensure that children's risk assessments contain clear control measures to support staff to minimise risks to children. This is specifically in relation to how staff should supervise children's swimming sessions. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)

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: 1240449

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Idem Living Ltd

Registered provider address: 6 Stable Court Business Centre, Water Lane,
Tarbock Green, Prescot L35 1RD

Responsible individual: Julie Wright

Registered manager: Dean Humphreys

Inspector

Sophie Thomson, Social Care Inspector

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