

1244283

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run children's home that provides care and accommodation for up to three children and young people.

The children and young people who are referred to the home may have experienced a sudden placement breakdown. They may be experiencing a situation which does not allow for a longer period of planning and preparation for admission.

The home provides a service for children and young people who would benefit from a placement in a small residential setting.

The manager in post is not yet registered with Ofsted as the manager of this setting. He is an experienced manager who has been registered for other services within the same company. An application for registration has been received.

Inspection dates: 10 to 11 March 2020

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: 16 October 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: Good

Enforcement action since last inspection:

None.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/10/2018	Full	Good
31/01/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
22/05/2017	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The young people currently living in the home are making excellent progress. This is due to them being well matched and having positive relationships with staff and each other. Both attend full-time education provisions and are settled, integrated and achieving well. One young person has made such good progress that she has been invited to attend a residential school trip to London. Another young person has settled into school and developed a positive friendship group. This promotes her sense of belonging and self-worth.

Young people do not display negative behaviours that impact on each other. This is due to the large age-gap between them and different presenting issues. Placement plans for young people identify their needs and the approach staff should adopt to best meet those needs.

Young people can identify staff with whom they have a positive and trusting relationship. This helps them because they understand that staff care about them and listen to their views, worries and concerns. Relationships between young people and staff were observed to be warm, caring and supportive, and firm where necessary. Staff communicate well with each other to ensure a consistent response to young people. This promotes a sense of security and predictability for young people.

Direct work with young people is frequent and relevant. Conversations happen in an organic way and young people do not feel forced to share their views.

Young people have access to a wide range of activities in line with their individual interests. One young person always needs to be busy and occupied. Her activity planner shows that she participates in many activities to prevent her from becoming bored. Another young person is sensitively helped to participate by staff offering low-key activities such as going for a drive. Staff are good at offering completely different approaches to working with the two young people.

Both young people in placement benefit from positive family contact. Managers advocated for a young person's family contact to increase in line with her expressed wishes and feelings. The impact of frequent family contact is that the young person is now much more settled.

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

Staff understand young people's individual risks. Risks are recorded in risk assessments which identify strategies to mitigate risks. Young people's safety improves because of the care they receive, and their risks reduce.

Young people's missing-from-home episodes decrease in frequency. This is due to staff listening to young people and identifying their pull factors. Once these pull factors are addressed, missing-from-home episodes reduce in number.

Staff adopt a 'strength-based' approach to support behaviour management. Staff understand that young people's behaviour stems from their early adverse experiences. They therefore do not hold young people accountable for their behaviour in a punitive way. Sanctions are not used unless they are a natural consequence of behaviours. Behaviour management focuses on rewarding positive behaviours. Staff help young people to understand why they sometimes display less positive behaviours.

Young people reported that they feel safe in the home and with the staff who care for them. Staff help young people to 'co-regulate' their heightened emotions and they make progress with improving their emotional regulation. Staff understand how to redirect young people and prevent escalation of emotions. This reduces incidents where young people become aggressive or destructive.

Managers take appropriate action in relation to allegations against staff. They put measures in place to keep young people safe while they report and investigate incidents of alleged harm. Disciplinary procedures for staff are effective in reducing the risks posed to young people.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The current manager is not yet registered for this home, but is a qualified and experienced manager. He shows high ambition for the young people in his care and the staff team alike. He has an excellent knowledge of both the staff team and the young people, and he can demonstrate progression for both.

The home is not fully staffed at present. Despite this, the manager has achieved consistency of care through using staff who are already known to the young people. Team members are also picking up additional shifts.

Staff said that they are managed in a positive way. They receive regular supervision and there are opportunities for them to develop. An extensive training package is in place to support staff learning. Staff reported that the home has a supportive culture where they feel able to approach managers and ask questions.

Working with wider systems is a strength of this home. Positive working relationships have been forged with the agencies involved in the young people's lives. When communication is not of a good standard, the manager takes effective action to address this.

Managers are strong advocates for young people. Where placing authorities do not act on young people's views, wishes and feelings, the manager challenges decisions on behalf of young people, resulting in better outcomes for them.

The one area identified for improvement at this inspection relates to ensuring all local authority documents are in children's files. This includes having a system in place to request documents that are not provided by the placing authority in a timely manner, for example statutory review meeting minutes for children looked after.

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 registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36(1)(a)(b)(c)) Specifically, this relates to copies of the minutes from children's statutory review meetings	08/04/2020

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: 1244283

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Ltd

Registered provider address: 49 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 9DG

Responsible individual: Emma Gordon

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Charlie Bamber, Social Care Inspector

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