

1246331

Registered provider: MY3 Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home offers care for up to four children who may have social, emotional and/or learning disabilities.

The home has had no registered manager since January 2023. An interim manager is in post and they have applied to Ofsted to be registered.

Three children were living in the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 12 and 13 September 2023

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: 10 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/01/2023	Full	good
22/03/2022	Full	good
04/12/2019	Full	outstanding
06/11/2018	Full	good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

One child has moved in and two children have moved out of the home since the last inspection. Children's moves in and out of the home are well considered by the manager. For one child, they had to leave at short notice following a safeguarding concern. This was managed sensitively by staff and, as a result, the child had a positive move to their new home. In addition, the staff supported the other children in the home to understand why the child had moved so quickly and helped them to manage their own feelings about this.

Children's views are understood and acted on by the staff. This enables children to be involved in decisions made about their care. For example, one child asked to change schools. The manager has advocated this view, which has informed care planning decisions. Children know how to complain. Children's complaints are responded to appropriately by the manager.

The staff help to nurture relationships between the children and their families. This enables children to maintain important relationships. One family link worker said that staff have worked closely with her to support one child to establish relationships with family that he did not know he had. Staff have facilitated for children to spend time with their family. When needed, staff have supported children to manage some difficult emotions related to their family relationships.

Staff understand the individual health needs of the children well. The manager has effective oversight of the administration of children's prescribed medications and works closely with health professionals. Staff complete good-quality direct work with children, which supports them to develop the knowledge and skills to understand their own health needs.

All of the children attend full-time education and complete learning activities at home. Staff have high aspirations for the children. One headteacher said that the staff support the children to develop a positive attitude towards learning.

Staff support the children to learn about a range of cultures and the local community. One child has applied to complete some voluntary work at a local farm. Staff have supported all of the children to contribute to local charities. This supports the children to develop an understanding of where they live and promotes their involvement in the local community.

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

Children benefit from having a stable team of staff who understand their needs and know them well. Children's relationships with staff help them to feel safe and secure.

Staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. Children's plans capture all known risks and provide staff with clarity in respect of the actions that they need to take to keep each child safe. All known risks for the children have reduced as a result of the care provided by staff. One independent reviewing officer said that one child's self-injurious behaviours had reduced because 'staff have supported him to learn ways of managing his feelings safely'.

Children are enabled to take risks in line with their individual abilities. For example, staff support children to access a range of activities and develop their own independence. This supports children to develop their confidence and pursue their own interests.

Boundaries for children are clear, and positive behaviour is rewarded. Physical intervention is used as a last resort to keep children safe. The manager ensures that all physical interventions used are recorded, and that debriefs take place with the child and staff after any incident. This ensures that practice in this area remains safe and appropriate.

The home is a physically safe environment. The children benefit from a spacious and welcoming living environment. There is one internal door in the home that is locked. This separates the manager's office from the main house and deflects from the otherwise homely environment. The manager has taken action to resolve this.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The departure of the registered manager and appointment of an interim manager has been seamless and has not compromised the care for children. The manager has applied to be registered with Ofsted in a timely way.

The manager promotes a culture in which staff are ambitious for all the children. The manager has a thorough understanding of the quality of care that the children receive and has effective monitoring systems in place. The manager takes prompt action when shortfalls in practice are identified.

The staff feel supported by the management team. Staff access regular supervision and training opportunities. The manager facilitates staff reflection and continuous learning. This supports the staff to develop the knowledge and skills to care for the children. Staff morale is extremely high. One staff member described feeling 'proud' to work in the home.

The manager has external monitoring systems in place and responds to feedback to improve the children's experience. However, the monthly independent person visits do not provide the manager with a detailed assessment of the care that the children receive, or provide the children with opportunities to share their views.

The manager has not identified that some language in children's records is blameful and derogatory. This does not support a child-led approach, or clearly distinguish

between fact and opinion. The manager took steps to address this during the inspection.

The manager has built effective working relationships with external professionals. This has included providing written monthly updates to key professionals. One independent reviewing officer identified that these updates support the review of a child's care plan.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff record information about children in a non-stigmatising way, which distinguishes between fact and opinion. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure that the independent person appointed to carry out visits makes an impartial and thorough assessment of the home's arrangements for promoting the welfare of the children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

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: 1246331

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: MY3 Limited

Registered provider address: 300 St. Marys Road, Garston, Liverpool L19 0NQ

Responsible individual: Louise Tierney

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sally Griffiths, Social Care Inspector

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