

1249117

Registered provider: Searchlight Care Services Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private organisation. It provides care for up to one child who experiences social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, one child was living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2024 and is suitably qualified.

Inspection dates: 9 and 10 March 2026

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: 11 November 2024

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
11/11/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/12/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/03/2023	Full	Outstanding
30/11/2021	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, no children have moved in or out of the home. The child living at the home has made good progress, supported by a consistent and stable team of staff who know them well.

Staff build positive, trusting relationships with the child. This helps the child to feel safe, valued and understood. As a result, the child is increasingly confident in expressing their feelings, worries and experiences to staff. This supports staff in understanding and responding to the child's needs and contributes to the child's emotional wellbeing.

Staff adapt their approach thoughtfully, using resources and research to respond to the child's evolving needs. This ensures that support remains consistent, individualised and effective.

Education is promoted well within the home. Staff maintain good relationships with education professionals and communicate regularly to share relevant information. As a result, the child is making good progress from their starting point.

Staff recognise and celebrate the child's achievements through praise, rewards and shared celebrations. This promotes the child's self-esteem and encourages pride in their accomplishments.

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

Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of the child's needs, risks and vulnerabilities. The child's plans are reviewed regularly, and staff use this knowledge to provide care that promotes stability, safety and positive relationships.

When physical intervention is used, it is proportionate, appropriate and used only as a last resort. Staff prioritise de-escalation techniques wherever possible. The manager maintains clear oversight of any incident involving physical intervention.

When concerns arose regarding the conduct of a staff member, leaders and managers acted promptly and appropriately in line with safeguarding procedures. The matter was investigated thoroughly and without delay. This shows a strong organisational commitment to safeguarding children.

Consequences used in the home are fair, proportionate and restorative. Staff understand the value of natural consequences and encourage reflective discussions that support the child's learning and understanding. The manager maintains oversight of all consequences to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

The manager ensures that staff receive training suitable for their roles, including training specifically tailored to the child's needs. Regular team discussions provide opportunities for staff to reflect on the child's lived experiences and consider the potential meaning behind behaviours.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager knows the home and the child well. Both the manager and deputy manager take a child-centred approach, which they model effectively across the team. Staff report that they are happy in their roles and feel well supported.

The manager and deputy promote a culture of learning and development. They recognise that the child's needs can change and ensure that the staff team remains responsive. For example, when newly identified needs emerged, the manager undertook research to explore effective strategies and approaches for staff to use when supporting the child.

Safer recruitment practices are in place. Revised systems across the company ensure that registered managers have clear oversight of recruitment for their homes. The manager completes thorough pre-employment checks and ensures that only suitable individuals are appointed.

There is a core team of staff who know the child well and have worked with them for a considerable period. At the time of the inspection, there was one staff vacancy. The manager has used experienced staff from within the organisation to support the home when necessary. This has minimised disruption for the child, as they already have established relationships with these adults.

The manager has strong working relationships with partner agencies. Professionals reported good communication and effective sharing of information, which supports multi-agency working and contributes to positive outcomes for the child.

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: 1249117

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Searchlight Care Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Marcus House, Parkhall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent
ST3 5XA

Responsible individual: Denver Underwood

Registered manager: Samantha O'Brien

Inspector

Sophie Coogan, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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