

1251364

Registered provider: Area Camden Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run home provides care for up to six children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in March 2023.

At the time of this inspection, there were five children living at the home.

Inspection dates: 7 and 8 June 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: 1 December 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/12/2022	Full	Good
09/06/2021	Full	Good
24/02/2020	Full	Good
18/12/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff build trusting relationships with the children and invest time in them to understand and support their needs. Children make progress from their starting points. They are receiving education, developing self-care skills and working towards independence.

Most children have been living at the home for long periods of time, which gives them stability and a sense of belonging. The children maintain their personal space, keeping it clean and tidy. The home has photos of the children on display and it feels like a comfortable place to live.

The children are supported to make healthy lifestyle choices. They are encouraged to undertake a range of activities, including swimming and walking, as well as being offered healthy food options, which include home-cooked nutritious meals.

The quality of relationships between staff, professionals, children and their families is a strength. Staff support children to spend quality time with their families and encourage children to maintain positive relationships with their social worker.

Complaints from children are responded to appropriately and resolved without the need for formal investigations. Children are encouraged to share their views and are given information to access advocacy support to further empower them and help them to understand their rights.

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

Managers and staff respond quickly and appropriately to safeguarding incidents and concerns. They ensure that incidents are reported to the appropriate services and work closely with the professional network around each child. Furthermore, they ensure that children receive medical attention when required.

Individual risk assessments for all children are up to date and include clear strategies to protect the children and reduce risks. Staff understand individual children's triggers and effective de-escalation techniques are used to manage challenging behaviour. Room searches are conducted respectfully when necessary to protect children. Staff support children to understand the potential consequences of risky behaviour.

Staff understand children's vulnerabilities and work carefully to protect them from those who seek to exploit them. Positive relationships with the children contribute to the effective management of their behaviours. Regular key-work sessions and daily conversations help children to understand risk and keep themselves safe.

Staff do not use police to manage behaviour, in a way that could criminalise children and any discriminatory behaviours are challenged. Children are helped and supported to treat others with respect. Staff work well with the local police and use their support to help children to understand the impact and consequences of prejudiced behaviours.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The leadership at the home is strong and stable. There is a solid foundation which the manager is further strengthening by beginning to implement research-based practice. Staff are supported to understand the effects of trauma and how to support children with such experiences.

Leaders and managers are ambitious for the children and have high expectations of them. They are persistent in promoting education and children are supported to understand its value and the impact it will have on their personal growth and development.

The registered manager recognises that the medication procedures need to be strengthened and that staff must follow the right procedures when administering medication to children. On one occasion, there was a discrepancy in a child's medication, when tablets were unaccounted for. Despite this shortfall, the child received immediate medical attention and did not come to any harm. The manager is taking appropriate action to provide support and training to staff on the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines.

Staff receive regular and effective supervision that focuses on their well-being, practice and children's needs. Staff performance and practice are reviewed annually. This helps staff to continually improve their individual practice and focus on their professional development. Staff are encouraged to research good practice and share their learning with the team, which further enhances staff's knowledge and skills and ability to support the children.

Leaders and managers work closely with other agencies and families. Feedback from placing social workers and parents is positive, further demonstrating that children receive consistent and high-quality care.

The home environment is maintained to a high standard and children are consulted about the development of the home environment. The home is a calm, nurturing and comfortable place to live and children are at ease and relaxed.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff undertake medication refresher training to ensure that there are no medication errors. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 34, paragraph 7.12)

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: 1251364

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Area Camden Limited

Registered provider address: Malvern View, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior,
Bromsgrove B60 4AD

Responsible individual: Lina Griniute

Registered manager: Amy Ide

Inspectors

Amena Begum, Social Care Inspector
Christine Kennet, Social Care Inspector

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