

1252023

Registered provider: T-Junction Children's Services Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a private provider. It is registered to provide care for up to three children.

There were three children living at the home at the time of the inspection. They all contributed to the inspection.

The manager is registered with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 29 and 30 January 2025

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: 14 June 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/06/2023	Full	Good
31/01/2023	Full	Good
25/10/2022	Full	Inadequate
15/06/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the previous inspection, one child has left the home following a sensitive planned transition and one child has moved into the home.

Children are at the heart of this home. The children experience a nurturing approach from the adults, who provide positive consistent care. Adults speak about children with enthusiasm, warmth and compassion. Some of the children have lived at the home for a long time. This level of stability creates a real sense of belonging. This has been significant in allowing children to build secure and meaningful relationships with a team of adults whom children know, trust and rely on.

Children are encouraged and supported to take part in a variety of enjoyable activities and attend clubs. They enjoy many positive experiences and develop hobbies and talents. Children go out weekly and attend community activities. For example, one child goes out rock climbing, and another child is a volunteer at a local farm. This supports children's confidence and helps to build their self-esteem.

Children attend education daily. Well-established routines and structure ensure that children are well prepared for the school day. When children return home, they chat with adults about how their day has been and what they have learned. Adults work closely with education providers to ensure that there is effective partnership working to help children make good progress. Children receive consistency in care and education. Children engage with learning and make clear progress.

Children have a wide variety of opportunities to share their views, wishes and feelings using different communication methods. These are captured and acted on using social stories, reward boxes and weekly children's meetings. Children also have personalised memory books and first experience books, which builds positive memories for each child. However, children are not always accessing advocacy when available, and one child does not have an advocate. This limits children's opportunities to understand their rights and have support about any concerns they may have.

Children live in a house that is homely and welcoming. The home environment reflects that children are valued. There is a lot of laughter and fun in the home. Communal rooms have many photos of events and holidays that children have been on together. The children have personalised their rooms, giving them a sense of pride and belonging. The adults see themselves as a family around the children in a family home. The environment promotes the well-being of children.

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

Children enjoy the trusting relationships built with the adults. They provide a strong and consistent routine that children benefit from. The adults can manage and support children through any worries or anxieties they may have. Children grow in confidence and self-esteem. This supports children to feel safe and secure.

Adults complete the provider's mandatory training. They also receive bespoke training that is tailored to the needs of the children. While safeguarding is a specific agenda item in team meetings and in one-to-one meetings, discussions do not always take place. This does not provide opportunities for adults to discuss and reflect more about specific safeguarding issues in regard to the child or risks posed in the community.

Adults do hold children at times in response to difficult behaviour. When this occurs, managers ensure that records are scrutinised and that the use of the holds is appropriate and proportionate. Children are given the opportunity to speak with adults and offered support following an incident. However, some records do not reflect emotional warmth or language that cares.

Children are safer because their risk assessments and plans provide clarity and direction for adults. When there is an incident of concern, the manager and adults reflect on the plans and risks and adjust plans if required. Plans are also subject to regular updating, so they accurately reflect children's risks and vulnerabilities. These plans provide staff with the direction they need to support and protect children.

Children receive appropriate healthcare support and attend routine appointments. This includes more specialist services when required. Adults work well with other health agencies to ensure that children are receiving the well-being support while working through issues pertinent to them. Children are registered with all health services, and health needs are quickly addressed.

Overall, the manager recruits staff in accordance with safer recruitment policies. However, the full employment history for some staff caring for children has not been fully accounted for.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced and dedicated to the children and their care. She is clearly child-focused and is able to detail the progress and experience of each child. She is an integral part of the home. The manager and deputy manager work well together creating consistency and stability within the team.

Adults enjoy their work. They see themselves as a 'work family' and are invested in the children's care. Adults say they feel supported and have confidence in the managers. They have regular team and one-to-one meetings, which provides

oversight and direction for their roles and responsibilities. They work well together, and staff morale is positive.

All adults have completed mandatory training and also engage in bespoke training tailored to the individual needs of the children. The organisation is committed to providing ongoing professional development, offering yearly conferences, quarterly newsletters and various growth opportunities. Additionally, adults receive daily support and guidance from managers and peers. This means that children benefit from the care of a skilled and knowledgeable team.

The manager has systems in place to monitor the quality of care. This ensures good management oversight of how the child is being cared for. Children's development and progress are communicated to external professionals, such as social workers, who receive regular updates and reports. The professionals who contributed to this inspection commended the work and commitment of the manager and adults. This supports the progression and achievement of children's goals for the future.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the content and/or outcomes of team meetings and one-to-one sessions reflect discussion on safeguarding issues which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs and external risks of children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.4)
- The registered person should ensure that the recruitment of staff safeguards children and minimises potential risks to them, including completion of criminal record checks for applicants who have lived overseas. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)
- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure that all children must have access to appropriate advocacy support, and where possible, this should be provided by a person that the child chooses. Looked-after children are entitled to an independent advocate to advise them and ensure they have the support they need to express their views, wishes and feelings about their care and lives. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 23, paragraph 4.16)

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: 1252023

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: T-Junction Children's Services Ltd

Registered provider address: 27 The Pastures, Narborough, Leicester LE19 3DS

Responsible individual: Timothy Clare

Registered manager: Susan Bird

Inspectors

Thirza Smith, Social Care Inspector

Laura Copus, Social Care Inspector

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