

1253975

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It offers care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties and/or have learning disabilities.

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

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2024.

Inspection dates: 29 and 30 October 2024

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: 30 August 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/08/2023	Full	Good
18/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/06/2021	Full	Good
04/07/2019	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child enjoys positive, trusting relationships with staff who know them well and offer nurturing and supportive care. The child is very comfortable with staff members. The child enjoys a range of activities with the staff inside and outside of the home. Staff promote positivity in the home and are aspirational for the child's future. The child says that they enjoy living in the home and are happy.

Staff ensure that the child's health needs are met. There are clear plans in place with guidance for staff to follow. The child is supported by staff to develop healthy habits that they will be able to sustain after leaving the home. For example, the child has learned how to shop for food and make healthy meals. The child is taken on walks and supported to understand health and nutrition.

The child attends an education provision full time. Staff transport the child and celebrate their educational achievements and progress. The child's tutor said, '[Name of child] is a model pupil who is doing brilliantly.'

Staff support the child to see the people who are important to them. The child's family members are welcomed into the home. Staff keep the child's family regularly updated on the child's care and progress. One parent said, 'They treat [name of child] like their own child, I couldn't ask for more.'

Independence plans are realistic for the child. Staff have clear plans in place to support the child in developing life skills. The child has engaged well with this and has learned important skills. Staff are alert to the challenges the child will face when living on their own and are working collaboratively with the child and the child's local authority to plan for this. This includes increasing the amount of time the child currently spends on their own and consideration for ongoing support once they move on from the home.

The child's bedroom reflects their individuality, and there are lots of photos displayed around the home. However, there are maintenance repairs outstanding throughout the home.

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

The child says that they feel safe in the home and cared for by staff. The child's needs are known and understood. Staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to help keep the child safe. Practice is supported by detailed written information about the child from their placing local authority. Risk assessments are clear, detailed and include guidance for staff to follow.

Staff carry out regular direct work with the child to develop the child's knowledge and understanding of how to keep themselves safe. The child has difficulties in managing

their emotions. Staff are supporting the child to understand difficult emotions and helping the child to consider positive strategies to manage these.

Children's medication is stored safely. There are clear plans in place for administering medication with detailed guidance for staff to follow. Records of medications administered are clear, and regular medication audits are carried out by the registered manager.

The registered manager ensures that staff are recruited safely and receive a quality induction. Monitoring of visitors to the home further ensures the protection of the child from potential harm.

Staff regularly use rewards, de-escalation techniques and distraction methods to manage the child's behaviour. Consequences are restorative in nature or natural consequences. On a small number of occasions, the child has been physically held by staff. However, records do not detail the appropriateness and proportionality of consequences and physical holds used. This is necessary to show that all restrictions on the child are used as a last resort.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is suitably qualified and experienced. She has been in post since January 2024 and has a good understanding of the home's strengths and areas for development. The registered manager knows the child very well and is child centred. She is passionate about the care that the child receives and is enthusiastic about the child's progress and achievements. Staff say that they are well supported by the manager. She leads by example and models expected practice for the child. One staff member said, 'We are lucky to have her.'

Staff development is a priority. Staff have individual development plans in place that identify key strengths and areas for further development. There is a range of training available that staff attend, including training that is specific to the child's individual needs. The registered manager carries out additional bespoke training in team meetings and regularly uses quizzes to test staff's knowledge and to reflect on their practice.

The registered manager communicates well with partner agencies and family members. Professionals and family members describe communication as 'really good' and say that they are kept well informed about the child's progress. She advocates on behalf of the child when she feels that their needs are not being met. However, on one occasion, the registered manager did not raise concerns with the placing local authority regarding drift and delay in a referral for specialist support.

The registered manager has effective monitoring and reviewing systems in place. All documents, except for the home's statement of purpose and location risk assessment, are regularly reviewed and kept up to date.

Staff say that they benefit from supervision. However, the recordings of these sessions do not evidence in-depth discussions about the child or staff's learning and development. This is a missed opportunity for the staff to discuss the quality of care that they provide to the child or identify any learning and development opportunities.

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably; and ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(vii)(c)(i)) In particular, ensure that any maintenance repairs are addressed to improve the condition of the home.	29 November 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that they work in partnership with the child's placing local authority and escalate their concerns to ensure that there is no drift and delay in the care and support the child receives. ('Guide to The Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 11, paragraph 2.5)
- The registered person should ensure that the home's statement of purpose is kept under regular review and provide a copy to His Majesty's Chief Inspector. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)
- The registered person should ensure that all incidents of control, discipline and restraint are subject to systems of regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair and

proportionate. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.36)

- The registered person should have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)
- The registered person should review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the home and premises at least once per year. When carrying out the review, the registered person should consult with each relevant person and consider their views. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.1)

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: 1253975

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: Ground Floor, Seneca House, Links Point, Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool, Lancashire FY4 2FF

Responsible individual: Lee Prescott

Registered manager: Lisa Howcroft

Inspector

Leanne Carr, Social Care Inspector

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