

# 1257289

Registered provider: Ravensbourne Project

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This is a short-breaks residential home and day service which provides care for children with learning or physical disabilities and/or sensory impairments. The home can provide overnight short breaks for up to five children aged between eight and 18, provided that two of the five children are siblings of the same gender. The home operates at weekends, during term time and in all holiday periods.

The home registered with Ofsted in July 2017 and the manager registered in October 2019. The registered manager is suitably qualified and experienced.

At the time of this inspection, there were no children present at the home.

### Inspection dates: 28 February and 1 March 2023

**Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account** **good**

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 21 July 2021

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 21/07/2021      | Full            | Good                    |
| 01/08/2019      | Full            | Good                    |
| 20/02/2019      | Interim         | Sustained effectiveness |
| 07/08/2018      | Full            | Good                    |

## **Inspection judgements**

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

At the time of this inspection, 38 children were receiving short breaks at the home on a rotating basis. The children have a wide range of physical and educational needs. Some of the children have medical conditions that require daily medication. Leaders and staff are knowledgeable about the individual needs of children. Parents are confident that their children are being well cared for and that their health needs are met well.

Children make remarkable social, emotional and physical progress. Case records demonstrate the progress that children make. Children have individual targets and objectives. Staff assist children in reaching their objectives and preparing for independent living.

Staff recognise the importance of children learning to improve their communication skills. Staff expertly use short stories that describe social situations to communicate with children. High-quality communication is seen as essential to the development of self-esteem and is enhancing children's ability to settle in the home.

When children come for a short break, they have many opportunities to try out new activities. These include arts and crafts, computer games, an interactive projector system, a sensory room and a trampoline, as well as simply watching television or relaxing. The home has also purchased a caravan holiday home near a seaside resort where parents and children can take extended short breaks.

Children live in an environment that is physically safe, homely and comfortable. Children's bedrooms are furnished and personalised to reflect their preferences and tastes. However, the cabin house in the garden has a broken window that needs to be replaced.

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

Children's needs are thoroughly assessed before the start of their short breaks. Staff understand the processes for assessing and introducing new children to the home. Leaders and managers complete and coordinate all assessment work and invite children for tea at the home. Careful planning and transitions ensure that children are successfully introduced to the home. This helps them to settle and feel more at ease and secure during their short-break visits.

Staff are well trained and understand their safeguarding responsibilities. All concerns and observations are reported to children's social workers. Staff have the confidence to work directly with children and address their sensitive issues.

Care plans and risk assessments are detailed and are followed consistently by staff. Children's plans provide a unique insight into their behaviours and the best possible means of supporting them. As a result, serious incidents are rare.

Staff work with children and their families in a targeted way to effect change in family circumstances and to keep children safe. Staff have undertaken some excellent work with children and their families on the impact of neglect.

Recruitment processes are appropriately thorough and safe. Prospective staff are carefully vetted and assessed before they start work. This helps promote children's safety in the home.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

Leaders and managers share an ambitious vision and have high aspirations for all children. They strive to make a positive difference in children's lives. Leaders and managers are present and available to support children and staff. Strong leadership in the home helps children make good progress.

The management team works well with other professionals, including social workers and care coordinators, and with children's families. This collaborative approach ensures that children receive coordinated help and support.

The home has a sufficient number of experienced staff. A key strength is the dedicated, stable and diverse staff team. The stable staff team provides children with consistent care and support.

The staff are well supported and feel valued. They benefit from regular professional supervision and team meetings. This allows them to reflect on their practice and share their views and experiences.

The high quality of staff training is a strength, and a comprehensive workforce development plan is in place. This provides the manager with a clear overview of the staff team's strengths and areas for development. However, not all staff receive a thorough induction.

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

### **Recommendation**

- The registered person should ensure that they provide a homely, domestic environment. In particular, this relates to replacing the window of the cabin house in the garden. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

### **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:** 1257289

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Ravensbourne Project

**Responsible individual:** Robert Jones

**Registered manager:** Sharon Edwards

## **Inspector**

Maud Pipim-Addo, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate  
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Manchester  
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