

1270297

Registered provider: Next Stage 4Life Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and run and provides care for up to two children. The home's statement of purpose states that it offers a service to children irrespective of gender aged between eight and 18 years. The home supports children from a wide variety of backgrounds of differing circumstances, including those with behavioural or other difficulties, and those who need intensive support.

The previous manager left in February 2022 and the new manager has yet to register with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 May 2022

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: 11 May 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/05/2021	Full	Good
05/11/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/03/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/09/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

There is currently one child living in the home. Another child recently left after the decision was reached that the staff were unable to meet their complex mental health needs.

The child receives thoughtful and nurturing care from the staff. They work hard to maintain good routines and boundaries that enable him to feel secure and establish trusting relationships with staff.

The child feels a sense of ownership in living at the home. He is regularly consulted about his care, and staff encourage him to voice his wishes and feelings. The home is welcoming and well maintained.

Staff encourage the child to engage in life-enriching experiences and to try new activities, such as 'wild camping'. He benefits from a dedicated toy room and his bedroom reflects his interests.

Since living at the home, his relationships and time spent with family have improved. This has resulted in family time becoming more activity-based and not requiring support or supervision from staff.

The child currently does not have a permanent educational setting identified. Staff work hard to maintain his routines, encourage his engagement in the temporary arrangements and complete educational work. Although staff and the manager advocate on the child's behalf, this shortfall has not been escalated effectively by the manager.

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

Since the last inspection, there have not been any complaints or allegations, nor any concerns with regard to children misusing alcohol or drugs.

The child is helped to behave in socially acceptable ways and adhere to the boundaries that are in place. Staff use a range of strategies to encourage positive behaviour, and they provide appropriate challenge and support as necessary.

There has been an increase in incidents requiring the assistance of the police. Advice to staff is not clear with regard to the circumstances in which the police should be called. In addition, not all staff have adhered to managerial advice and direction to prevent incidents reoccurring.

The child says that he feels safe at the home and professionals concur with this view. Staff are knowledgeable with regard to his vulnerabilities and triggers that can result in him becoming upset.

Staff spend quality time with the child talking about a variety of subjects and issues that are pertinent to him. They take an open and educative approach to supporting positive behaviour and choices.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The previous manager retired in February 2022 and the new manager has been in post since this time. She has worked at the home a number of years prior to taking up this position. She has yet to register with Ofsted.

Staff turnover at the home is very low and this offers consistency and stability to children.

The manager is child-focused in her approach to running the home. She is very knowledgeable about the child and his plans. Staff speak highly of her support and the direction she offers.

Staff receive regular supervision and there is a range of training that is available to maintain and increase their skills and knowledge base. However, staff have not been trained in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or providing care to children who have suffered childhood trauma. These areas are of particular significance for the child placed. Consequently, staff have not had the opportunity to review their care of the child in light of this insight and knowledge.

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, 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
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5(c)) This specifically refers to the registered person challenging and escalating concerns effectively relating to children's educational placements.	30 June 2022
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)) This specifically refers to ensuring that staff are trained in delivering care to children who have specific needs, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or who have suffered childhood trauma.	30 July 2022
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.	30 June 2022

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—

that staff—

understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;

take effective action whenever there is a serious concerns about a child's welfare.

(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi))

This specifically refers to ensuring that staff adhere to managerial instructions to prevent incidents reoccurring and that staff understand when it is necessary to involve the police.

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: 1270297

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Next Stage 4Life Limited

Registered provider address: Regency House, 45–53 Chorley New Road, Bolton
BL1 4QR

Responsible individual: Richard Guy

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Pauline Yates, Social Care Inspector

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