

1270301

Registered provider: Future Focused Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned. The provider states in its statement of purpose that it provides care for up to three children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

The manager is not registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 28 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 4 October 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The care of children

Children enjoy positive relationships with the adults who support them and they make good progress in relation to their starting points.

Children attend school regularly. Staff work closely with the providers of children's education to promote their educational achievement. A social worker said, '[Name of child] is thriving in education and everybody is really pleased with the structure of the placement.'

Staff support children to communicate their views and opinions openly. As a result, children are involved in key decisions and can influence the running of the home. Staff listen to the views of children and act on their reasonable requests. Consequently, children feel involved, valued and listened to.

Children receive support to have safe contact with their families. As a result, they sustain their close relationships with the people who are important to them. One child said, 'I see my family at weekends.'

Staff work closely with the home's therapist and are trained in therapeutic parenting to meet the specific needs of the children. A social worker said, 'The home is excellent, with skilled staff who are very child-focused and excellent advocates for children.'

The home provides children with a warm, homely and comfortable living environment. Children's bedrooms have been redecorated in accordance with their wishes and feelings. Bedrooms are suitably personalised and reflect the children's interests and personalities.

Staff provide children with enjoyable activities. For example, children enjoy going swimming, ice skating, trampolining, and to the golf range, cinema and local pleasure beach. One child said, 'It's good because we have activities and fun with the staff.'

The safety of children

Staff ensure that children's plans are reviewed and updated regularly. Plans reflect the needs of children and highlight their specific vulnerabilities. Consequently, risks associated with children are well known and understood by staff.

Children's risk-taking behaviour has reduced in relation to their starting points. For example, there has been a reduction in the frequency of incidents and challenging behaviour.

The use of physical intervention is a last resort that is only ever used to protect children from harm. The manager monitors the use of restraint to ensure that staff practice is safe and effective.

Staff are trained in child protection, so they know how to deal with allegations and report suspected abuse. Children are protected from abuse and all other forms of significant harm. Significant incidents are reported to the appropriate authorities to promote the safety and well-being of children. A social worker said, 'Excellent communication with myself and I am kept informed of all incidents.'

Consequences used by staff to address unacceptable behaviour are fair and proportionate. There have been no complaints or allegations since the last inspection.

Children rarely go missing from the home. On the infrequent occasions that children have gone missing, staff have followed the home's missing person procedures to locate children and secure their safe return. There have been two missing-from-home episodes since the last inspection.

The accommodation provided for children is physically safe. Health and safety matters are managed effectively. This ensures that a safe environment is consistently maintained for children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The home's acting manager has recently applied for registration with Ofsted. The manager ensures that children benefit from a home that is managed efficiently and effectively. They work closely with the home's therapist to support children and ensure that staff practice is therapeutically informed.

Staff benefit from regular, practice-related supervision. Monthly team meetings are held by staff to review the progress and experiences of children. Staff benefit from good-quality training, so they have the right skills and knowledge to meet the specific needs of children.

Staff are trained in the playfulness, acceptance, empathy and curiosity (PACE) model to enable them to support children to overcome the impact of adverse childhood experiences and childhood trauma.

Staff maintain effective partnerships with social workers, schools and health professionals to ensure that children benefit from the best possible all-round support. A social worker said, 'It's going really well, really happy with his progress. He is settled and staff are very proactive with him.'

The manager acts on feedback obtained following the home's external and independent monitoring activities. He understands the home's strengths and tackles identified weaknesses to secure the home's improvement. The manager has met and addressed the requirements from the last inspection.

The manager has completed a detailed six-monthly quality-of-care review; however, the report does not include feedback from children, family members, social workers or other stakeholders to evaluate the quality of the children's care.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/10/2021	Full	Good
15/10/2019	Full	Good
14/03/2019	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that feedback is obtained from children, parents, social workers and other stakeholders and included in the home's six-monthly quality-of-care review. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.23)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1270301

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Future Focused Ltd

Registered provider address: Future Focused Ltd, Crows Nest Business Park,
Ashton Road, Wigan, Lancashire WN5 7XX

Responsible individual: Neil Smith

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Anthony Kyem, Social Care Inspector

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