

# 1275189

Registered provider: Pebbles Care

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for one child or young person from age eight to 17 years, irrespective of gender. It provides care and support for children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home offers a safe and nurturing environment. It demonstrates commitment to working positively and in partnership with children and young people, families, local authorities and other external agencies to ensure that there is continual development, with a collaborative and multi-disciplined approach to providing care.

The service offers short-, medium- and long-term placements for children and young people who may have low self-esteem, who display challenging behaviours and who do not have a stable educational background or who have experienced repeated placement breakdowns.

The manager of the service is working towards achieving a level 5 qualification in leadership and management of residential care settings. She was registered with Ofsted in July 2018.

**Inspection dates:** 6 to 7 December 2018

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account | <b>good</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

|                                                             |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 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:** not applicable, as this is the home's first inspection

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** not applicable

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

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

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) 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(s) must comply within the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Due date   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child.<br/>(Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i))</p> <p>In particular, that impact risk assessments completed prior to placement contain further information gathered from the placing authority and a full evaluation of how the home intends to meet the needs and mitigate risks in order to safely accommodate children and young people.</p> | 31/01/2019 |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—</p> <p>a description of the measure and its duration.<br/>(Regulation 35 (3)(a)(iv))</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 31/01/2019 |

### Recommendations

- Staff should be familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording.  
(‘Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 62, paragraph 14.4)

## **Inspection judgements**

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

This is the first inspection since the home was registered in July 2018. Young people have developed good relationships with a competent and nurturing staff team.

Healthcare is prioritised. Young people are registered with appropriate local services and have had regular appointments to address eye care, dentistry and their general medical needs.

Young people were not in education prior to their arrival at the home. Leaders and staff worked collaboratively with other agencies to establish an appropriate plan for education that met the individual young person's needs.

One young person was able to bring a family pet to the home. This had significant therapeutic benefits and helped her to feel more settled and secure in the home.

Young people have accessed a wide range of activities. They are encouraged to develop active hobbies and interests such as swimming, Zumba and attending the local gym. This provides them with social opportunities and promotes self-confidence.

Staff work with families and those important to young people to ensure that contact is regular and that young people retain a clear sense of their identity and belonging.

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

Impact risk assessments are completed with sufficient consideration and exploration of risks to young people prior to placement. This has not been fully evidenced within the documentation. A requirement is made to enhance this area of practice.

Young people who have been missing from the home have received a well-coordinated response. Incidents are reported swiftly and staff have worked alongside the police and other agencies to return young people home safely.

Records of incidents of going missing, including times and the detail of independent return interviews, were not fully explicit in the main incident report. This information is available in other records, but this means that monitoring and evaluation are more difficult. A best practice recommendation is made.

The staff have intervened physically to keep young people safe. Physical interventions are proportionate and comprehensive records are made. The records do not always sufficiently denote the duration of single holds and a requirement is made to address this matter.

Staff have had safeguarding training, including enhanced topics. This helps to ensure that staff know how to identify and reduce risks to young people from forms of

exploitation.

Medication administration and storage arrangements are stringent. The physical environment in the home is well maintained and kept free from hazards.

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

The registered manager is a strong leader who is appropriately experienced in providing residential care for children. She is in the process of completing a level 5 leadership qualification.

Staff report that the service is well managed, and they feel well supported to meet the needs of the young people in their care.

The staff team has accessed a wide variety of training. Supervision and team meetings are regular and provide opportunities for staff to reflect on their practice.

The manager is introducing topics of research to the staff to further enhance their practice. The development plan for the home reflects a culture of continuous improvement.

Care planning processes are child-centred and demonstrate that the team is heavily invested in ensuring that the needs of the young people in their care are met.

Family members and placing social workers have provided positive feedback about the service. One social worker said, 'The team in the home is friendly and welcoming. The staff communicate positively and have engaged [the young person] well.'

## **Information about this inspection**

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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:** 1275189

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

**Registered provider:** Pebbles Care

**Registered provider address:** 2 Wyther Lane, Leeds, Yorkshire LS5 3BT

**Responsible individual:** Amanda Quinn

**Registered manager:** Holly Illingworth

## **Inspector**

Nicola Thomas: social care inspector

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