

1276719

Registered provider: Devon & Cornwall Autistic Community Trust (t/a Spectrum)

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home was registered in May 2018 for three children. It is owned by a private organisation.

Inspection dates: 20 to 21 May 2019

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 4 March 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:

This home was graded inadequate at its first full inspection, 4 to 5 March 2019. Two compliance notices were issued at this time in respect of the protection of children standard and the leadership and management standard. These compliance notices had not been met when a monitoring visit was completed on 9 April 2019.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/03/2019	Full	Inadequate

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, 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
The enjoyment and achievement standard is that children take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, cultural, intellectual, physical and social interests and skills. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— develop the child's interests and hobbies; participate in activities that the child enjoys and which meet and expand the child's interests and preferences; make a positive contribution to the home and the wider community; and that each child has access to a range of activities that enable the child to pursue the child's interests and hobbies. (Regulation 9(1)(2)(a)(I)(ii)(iii)(b))	27/06/2019
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to—	27/06/2019

achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans; understand the child's health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child's health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding; take part in activities, and attend any appointments, for the purpose of meeting the child's health and well-being needs; and understand and develop skills to promote the child's well-being; that each child is registered as a patient with a general medical practitioner and a registered dental practitioner; and that each child has access to such dental, medical, nursing, psychiatric and psychological advice, treatment and other services as the child may require. (Regulation 10(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(I)(ii)(iii)(iv)(b)(c))	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The requirements are that the registered person must ensure that — the individual (staff member) is mentally and physically fit for the purposes of work that the individual is to perform. (Regulation 32(3)(c))	27/06/2019

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

Significant changes in the staff team have diminished opportunities for trusting and secure relationships for the child who lives at the home. The home is now fully staffed, and important and consistent relationships are developing.

Care plans are not explicitly informed by the child's needs, wishes and feelings. This means that the child is not enabled to actively participate in decisions about his life.

Healthcare planning lacks clarity. Guidance regarding diet and nutrition is not clear,

despite this being a key health need for the child.

Social and recreational opportunities are limited. The child is not benefiting from having time with other children outside of school.

An advocate is now in place for the child. The child also enjoys time with the independent visitor. He spoke fondly of her visits.

Specialist therapeutic advice underpins practice at the home. This approach has had a very positive impact on the child. There have been no behavioural concerns for over a month. This is significant progress in respect of the child's ability to manage his own emotions.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

The child presents as happy and relaxed. This is a notable difference from his anxious presentation at the last full inspection.

The child has not been helped to ensure that his use of the internet is safe. Not all staff have been trained in online safety. There is also no clear practice guidance on this issue within care planning.

The outcomes of the assessment process regarding an allegation of harm have not been provided for the child and his parent. Therefore, important reassurance that the child is safe and well cared for has not been provided.

Ongoing analysis of the child's overall behaviour is completed by all staff. This is supporting staff to understand how to best meet the child's needs. As a result, there has been no need for physical interventions for many weeks.

Staff are all trained to the required safeguarding standard. Safeguarding policies and procedures have been reviewed and amended. This promotes the ability of staff to manage child protection concerns effectively.

The compliance notice issued at the last full inspection in respect of the protection of children standard is now met.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The acting manager has completed her application to become registered. She is awaiting her interview with Ofsted.

New staff are in post and are actively engaged in regular supervision sessions and team meetings. This is supporting the development of a nurturing environment at the home.

The physical and mental capacity of staff to meet the needs of the child is not closely monitored. Assessment did not take place prior to a staff member returning to work even though they had told managers that they had personal difficulties.

Care planning does not accurately reflect the emerging nurturing practice at the home. Furthermore, not all care planning documents are clear and effective. This reduces the ability of staff to access important information easily.

Monitoring and oversight of the care provided for the child have significantly improved. This is due to the acting manager's commitment to raising standards.

The compliance notice issued in respect of the leadership and management standard is now met.

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: 1276719

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Devon & Cornwall Autistic Community Trust (t/a Spectrum)

Registered provider address: Lakeside Offices, The Old Cattle Market, Porthleven Road, Helston, Cornwall TR13 0SR

Responsible individual: Mark Beniston

Registered manager: Hannah-Marie Bennetts

Inspector

Polly Soper: social care inspector

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