

1277158

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It offers care for up to two children who may experience social and emotional difficulties and/or have learning disabilities.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2025.

Inspection dates: 18 and 19 June 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 8 October 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/07/2024	Full	Inadequate
19/12/2023	Full	Good
13/09/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child has positive relationships with staff and can identify adults they trust. Staff speak about the child with genuine care and affection. The child receives nurturing and supportive care from staff who know them well. The child enjoys a range of activities with staff inside and outside the home, which supports building and maintaining meaningful relationships.

Barriers to the child attending health appointments have been identified. The registered manager is working closely with external professionals to find solutions that are in the best interests of the child and meet their health needs. This includes liaising with professionals and considering creative ways for the child to be seen for routine and specialist appointments.

Barriers to the child attending education have been identified. The registered manager is working with external professionals to find a solution that works best for the child's educational needs. While a solution is sought, staff are helping the child to develop life skills and are using the child's creative interests to engage them in vocational activities.

Staff recognise and understand the importance of the child spending quality time with people who are important to them. Staff work closely with the child's family members to maintain family links and ensure that the child spends quality time having fun with significant others. This supports the child's sense of self and identity.

There are some maintenance repairs and redecoration required throughout the home, and it does not feel like a family home. The registered manager has plans in place to address this. However, there has been a delay in action being taken to provide the child with a warm and welcoming environment.

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

Before the child moved into the home, the registered manager carried out a risk assessment. This identifies known risks for the child and considers the location of the home and staff's skills and experience to meet the child's needs. The registered manager includes consultation with the child's placing authority and external professionals to gather relevant information to inform decision-making. As a result, all matching considerations are appropriately evaluated.

Staff respond proactively when the child goes missing from the home. There are clear safety plans in place with detailed guidance for staff to follow. Staff search for the child themselves in known local areas of interest. They liaise with the child's family members and friends as well as external professionals to locate the child and return them safely home. Records of incidents detail all actions taken by staff in their efforts to return the child. Staff talk to the child to try and understand the reasons for going missing and use

this information to try and reduce future similar incidents. For example, staff have put in place structured guided activities around the child's emerging interests. However, staff do not always use their professional curiosity when considering risks to the child when in the community.

Staff regularly use rewards and incentives to manage the child's behaviour. When behavioural incidents arise at the home, staff respond appropriately and proactively, using de-escalation techniques and distraction methods. There have been no incidents where staff have physically held the child. The registered manager has specific monitoring tools in place to identify patterns, themes and trends in any incidents that arise. Staff use this information to identify any triggers to behaviour in order to reduce the number and frequency of incidents.

Staff carry out direct work with the child to develop their knowledge and understanding of how to keep themselves safe and manage their feelings. This includes staff talking to the child about the consequences of their actions and choices, including legal implications and processes. As a result, the child's involvement in criminality and the frequency of missing-from-home incidents are decreasing.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2025 and has had an immediate influence on the improvements achieved in the home since the last visit. He knows the child well and understands their needs. The registered manager understands the home's strengths and areas for development. He leads the team by example.

Staff say that the registered manager is supportive and approachable. They describe 'loving' their jobs and say that they enjoy coming to work. Staff communicate well with each other and work additional days in the home to provide consistent care to the child. Staff are passionate and enthusiastic about offering high-quality care to the child.

Partner agencies and family members say that they are happy with the care staff provide to the child. The registered manager advocates on the child's behalf and shares relevant information to keep professionals and family members well informed of the child's progress. One education advocate said:

'Staff have built a rapport with [name of child] that we haven't seen in any other setting. They think outside the box on what is going to work; they are doing everything they can for [name of child]. The stability and consistency they have provided for [name of child] is like nothing we have ever seen before.'

Staff do not regularly receive one-to-one supervision. Additionally, team meetings are not held regularly in line with the provider's timescales. This means that staff cannot regularly reflect on their care of the child or discuss their development needs.

The registered manager regularly attends multi-agency care planning meetings for the child and shares relevant information. However, when actions have been set, the

registered manager does not ensure that they are recorded and accessible for staff to implement before the official meeting minutes are received. This does not ensure a proactive response to the child's care planning.

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
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(i))	18 July 2025
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that all employees have regular opportunities to reflect on their care of children during supervision.	18 July 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that they lead the team in a way that provides high-quality care for children living in the home. This includes ensuring that staff are professionally curious about safeguarding risks to children when out in the community.

(‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 52, paragraph 10.4)

- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the importance of careful and clear recording to prevent any drift and delay in progressing children’s care plans. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 1277158

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: Ground Floor, Seneca House, Links Point, Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool, Lancashire FY4 2FF

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Darren Johnson

Inspectors

Leanne Carr, Social Care Inspector
Debbie Dawson, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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