

2483881

Registered provider: Ivie Lodge Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately run and provides care for up to four children with social and/or emotional difficulties and children with learning disabilities.

Inspection dates: 9 and 10 August 2022

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: 19 October 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/10/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
24/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
18/06/2019	Full	Good
19/02/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive positive care and support from the staff team. An interim manager has been in post since March 2022. Significant improvements have been made in the quality of care children receive. The manager is committed to ensuring that children feel well supported and have their needs met.

Feedback from a placing social worker is very positive. They state that the care shown to their child is 'impressive' and that the child has positive relationships with the staff. They report that communication is good and say that the child is experiencing lots of new things. This supports children to be happy and settled in the home.

The manager and staff develop carefully considered plans for children who are moving into the home and for those leaving. Children are welcomed in a planned, sensitive manner. One child who has recently moved in said, 'Moving in was good. I like the staff, they are really nice.' This helps children to develop a sense of belonging and self-esteem.

Children feel listened to by the manager and staff. However, there is little evidence of children's comments and views contributing to the running of the home and decisions about their care. This limits children's participation in the day-to-day running of the home and the decisions that affect their lives.

Staff motivate children to learn and encourage them to experience new things. Although the children do not yet have education placements, the manager is taking swift action and is working with involved agencies to identify suitable provisions as soon as possible. The manager understands the importance of children having good-quality education and remains focused on identifying provisions quickly.

Children's health needs are well considered and met by the team. Staff are supported by the organisation's clinical psychologist. They provide regular consultation and advice on how to support children. The clinical psychologist also provides direct support to the children. This further promotes children's health and emotional well-being.

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

The manager and staff understand children's vulnerabilities. The staff ensure that children's risk assessments contain up-to-date information. The staff plan for and respond well to children's known and potential risks. This supports staff in taking action to keep children safe.

The staff have a good understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. Safeguarding training is appropriate for the current needs of the children. External

agencies attend staff meetings to support and discuss current safeguarding challenges and concerns in the wider community. Reflections and learning on safeguarding matters are also discussed in each staff member's one-to-one meetings with their manager. This supports continued learning and development for the team.

When children go missing, the manager and staff follow the home's protocols and procedures robustly. Recording of such incidents is detailed and clear. Staff search outside of the local area when a child goes missing. Staff go above and beyond their roles and responsibilities. It is evident they work closely and proactively with relevant agencies and professionals to support keeping children safe.

The recruitment of new staff is managed well and designed to safeguard children. Safe recruitment practices and protocols are followed. This means that new staff are only employed subject to clear vetting processes. This reduces the risk of unsuitable adults working in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home has been without a registered manager since September 2021. Several appointments have been made but have not been successful. However, an interim manager is now in post and has submitted their application to register. The interim manager understands the strengths and weaknesses of the home. She has successfully addressed the shortfalls identified at the last inspection.

Quality assurance and monitoring systems are generally effective. However, monitoring systems have not included the oversight of all records and evidencing children's views and feedback on the care they receive.

The staff receive regular practice-based supervision. These sessions are reflective and include individual debriefs following incidents. The interim manager supports and challenges staff, in a thoughtful way, to support their progress and development. This helps staff to progress with their learning and development.

The interim manager has recruited a diverse team, which enriches the quality of care. Staff are supported by managers in their roles. They receive daily support and guidance. Some members of the team are new. Consequently, the interim manager is working hard to embed the ethos of the home to make sure that care is consistent.

The interim manager has plans to continue to develop and improve the service further. She speaks with passion about the home and children and demonstrates a genuine commitment. The home needs decoration in some areas, and the garden would benefit from some improvement.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home is a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of the children. Children's homes will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that children are actively encouraged to read their records and to add further information to them. They should be regularly reminded of their rights to see information kept about them and be given information about how they might be supported to access their records in later life. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.6)
- The registered person should ensure that children are consulted regularly on their views about their care, to inform and support continued improvement in the quality of care provided. Due consideration should be given to the child's cognitive ability in the development and implementation of any consultation processes. Children should be able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted on. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.11)

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: 2483881

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Ivie Lodge Limited

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor, 9 Portland Street, Manchester M1 3BE

Responsible individual: Lyndsey Sim

Registered manager: Post Vacant

Inspector

Thirza Smith, Social Care Inspector

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