

2484443

Registered provider: Impact For Change Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is part of a small private organisation. The home is registered to care for up to three children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since August 2022.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the home.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 August 2023

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	requires improvement to be 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: 27 September 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/09/2022	Full	Good
19/01/2022	Full	Inadequate
14/01/2020	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/02/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is well presented and provides a family-style environment for children to live in. Children's rooms are personalised. Repairs are addressed promptly. A full 'refresh' of the home is planned for September. Outside areas are well maintained and provide opportunities for children to play.

Carers have supported children to make progress. Before living at this home, one child had not accessed full-time education for a number of years. During the most recent school term, they attended the full term with 100% attendance. Another child has progressed from having one hour of educational activities a day to almost full-time attendance. Children are supported to voice their views, wishes and feelings. This has led to carers promoting activities that children enjoy. These activities have contributed to the development of essential life skills.

Positive relationships are built between carers and children. Care provided to children is individualised, with carers knowing their routines, behaviours, likes and dislikes. Conversations with children are of a good quality. When required, conversations cover difficult or sensitive topics in a child-focused manner.

One parent and a social worker spoke positively about carers. The parent said that since carers had been arranging and supporting family time, the quality of this time had improved. Observations of communication between the registered manager and another parent showed that they have developed a positive working relationship centred around the best interests of the child. Carers have supported one child to build a relationship with their new social worker.

Carers support children to attend health appointments. Their monitoring of a child's behaviours in relation to medication has been central in a decision for the child to cease taking medication that was not beneficial for them.

Before a child moved into the home, managers considered all information provided to them and the needs of both children. Preparation for a child to move in was thorough. The child's initial introductions to carers and the child already living in the home were well planned.

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

Plans and risk assessments that are devised to support carers to care for children and keep them safe are clear and informative. Plans are updated regularly, providing good overall insight into the child, their needs and behaviours that they may exhibit. They provide examples of how to respond to children sensitively and inquisitively to support children and de-escalate behaviours.

Carers provide children with boundaries. They have a clear understanding of why these are needed and promote positive behaviours within the home. Processes are in place that allow carers to share important information with each other. This supports carers to provide children with consistency from the team of adults.

One child told the inspector that they like living in the home. They said that they can talk to carers if they need to and that carers make him feel safe. Observations of the carers providing care for this child were positive and portrayed positive relationships.

Carers have attempted to support the children living in the home to have a positive relationship with each other. However, this has not always been successful. Despite carers following plans and ongoing conflict management, there have been ongoing difficulties that have led to the children being hurt by each other. One child living in the home has complex needs, and both children have experienced trauma and poor relationships. It is likely that this has contributed to these ongoing difficulties. One child's social worker and carers believe that the children would benefit from therapeutic support; however, this is not provided by or commissioned by the home.

Restraint and guides have been appropriately used to keep children or others safe. Incident reports are informative but, at times, lack a description of how carers have attempted to de-escalate incidents. During the inspection, the inspector observed a carer successfully and skilfully de-escalating a situation.

Carers talk to children after incidents. These conversations are reflective and aim to support children to make sense and learn from their actions and experiences.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is run by a registered manager who is passionate about the children who live there and the team of carers. She knows the children and carers well. She is aware of the home's strengths and areas that require development. The inspector observed the manager in a meeting with other professionals. The manager shared appropriate information, challenged others and was a strong advocate for the child.

Leaders and managers have good oversight of the home. Carers are provided with reflective and meaningful conversations following incidents. These discussions lead to the development of plans and strategies to improve the care and outcomes for children. When there are practice concerns, they are promptly dealt with, and good practice is shared with the team.

Carers speak positively about the leaders and managers. They feel valued, listened to and supported and receive good-quality supervision. When the registered manager has had time off work, the registered individual has stepped in, providing the carers with a sense of stability.

Recruitment is safe, and carers are provided with training that is relevant to their roles. Additionally, optional training is offered. Carers said that leaders and managers support ongoing professional development, acknowledging the benefit of

this for children.

Team meetings are regular and inclusive. Agendas, actions and outcomes are clearly recorded. Managers and carers discuss all aspects of the home and the children.

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 positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans; help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child's behaviour, in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child's age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have	14 October 2023

the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children; are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same; that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(ix)(x) (b)) In particular, ensure that all types of support are available to children. This should include therapeutic support when the need has been identified.	
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— that staff— 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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child’s welfare; and that the home’s day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iv)(v)(vi)(b))	14 October 2023

In particular, ensure that carers have access to therapeutic and/or clinical guidance and advice that will underpin children's plans and carers' practice, allowing them to better meet the needs of children.	
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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: 2484443

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Impact For Change Ltd

Registered provider address: Canns Down Press, Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon
EX19 8LZ

Responsible individual: Nicholas Scribbins

Registered manager: Rebecca Deverill

Inspector

Carla Simkiss, Social Care Inspector

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