

2500668

Registered provider: Idem Living Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private company owns this home. The home provides care and accommodation for three children who may have learning disabilities.

There is no registered manager at this home. The interim manager has submitted his application to Ofsted.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 January 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

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: 5 March 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/03/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
11/12/2019	Full	Good
13/03/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Two children are living in this home, and they are happy and settled in the home. They have both lived there for over 18 months. Staff know the children well, and positive relationships between the children and staff are evident. There were lots of smiles, laughter and affection observed between the staff and the children.

The children have made good progress since living at the home, including developing their communication skills. One child has started to use longer sentences, and the other child has started to say more words when communicating.

Careful planning and robust risk assessments mean children have access to a range of positive experiences. Children enjoy swimming, trampolining, outings and caravan holidays.

Children make progress in education. Their records show they are calmer in school and follow instructions better. Both enjoy school, and good working relationships between staff and school have allowed the children to progress.

Individualised health plans mean children's health needs are being met. The children are registered with and have access to primary care services in the local area. Staff seek specialist help when this is necessary. Medication is being managed safely and effectively.

Plans for transitions to adulthood are being implemented. Children's independence skills are being developed in line with their plans. Children enjoy cooking meals for the home.

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

Children have a high level of supervision, which is consistent with their plans. This means they can develop their independence while staff ensure they are safe.

Individual, up-to-date risk assessments address known risks for children effectively. Staff understand the risks, and the strategies used are clear and effective. Children are safeguarded effectively because of the care they experience. Staff use their assessments of risks to identify the progress of children and to address areas of concern.

Restraints are proportionate and used as a last resort. The recordings of restraining incidents are in line with regulations. Records show a range of de-escalation strategies used in attempts to avoid the restraints. Staff and children receive a debrief after an incident. Debriefs for children are child centred and in accordance with their communication needs. The number of restraints has reduced for both children.

Managers recruit new staff safely, which means children are protected from unsuitable adults working in the home.

The home environment is safe; however, areas for improvement were identified, such as new carpets, repairs to a floor and a new bed for one of the children. The manager had already started to address these during the inspection.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is new to the role. He is suitably qualified and has applied to Ofsted for registration. He is aware of the strengths of the home and has already begun taking steps to address any shortfalls.

There has been a high turnover of staff since the last inspection. While staff work hard to cover the gaps, agency staff have been used and this has had an impact on the continuity of care for the children.

Staff rotas are not clear, and at times there have been changes to the supervision levels of children. This is particularly in relation to night staff, and the manager has, on occasion, made the decision to change a waking night to a sleep-in shift. So far, this has not had an impact on the care the children have received, but a requirement has been made to address this shortfall.

Staff speak positively about the manager and the support they receive. They feel valued and that their skills are used well. They have received training relevant to the role. However, training on communication with disabled children has not taken place and this is a recommendation.

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 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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d)) This specifically relates to repairing one child's bedroom floor, replacing a bed, new carpets and repairs to drawers.	24 March 2022
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(d)) This specifically relates to ensuring there are sufficient waking night staff.	24 March 2022
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. (Regulation 16 (1))	24 March 2022

This specifically relates to ensuring that staffing and staff structure are up to date in the statement of purpose.	
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; ensure that the records are kept up to date; and retain the records for at least 15 years from the date of the last entry. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c)) This relates to the need for staff rotas to be clear, easy to understand and show accurate staffing levels.	24 March 2022

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that children are provided with support to communicate their views. This may include the use of communication aids or equipment. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.6)

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: 2500668

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Idem Living Ltd

Registered provider address: 6 Stable Court, Business Centre Water Lane
Tarbock Green, Prescot L35 1RD

Responsible individual: Julie Wright

Registered manager: post vacant

Inspectors

Rachael Crook, Social Care Inspector
Sophie Thomson, Social Care Inspector

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