

# 2511662

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care 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 company. It is registered to provide care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties.

There were three children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The home registered in May 2019. There is a registered manager in post.

### Inspection dates: 1 and 2 February 2023

|                                                                                           |             |
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| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account</b> | <b>good</b> |
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|                                                             |      |
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| 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:** 1 February 2022

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01/02/2022      | Full            | Good                 |
| 03/03/2020      | Full            | Good                 |

## **Inspection judgements**

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Staff know the children well and always place their well-being at the centre of their practice. The children say that if they have a problem, they can talk to the staff as they will listen.

Children have access to a wide range of community-based activities, such as sports teams and scouts. They can also spend time with their friends. This means that children have age-appropriate social interactions and can build skills and strategies to form and maintain relationships and develop a sense of their own identity.

Children's health and well-being needs are met, and they have access to health professionals when needed. When necessary, specialist external help is sourced in areas of care such as substance misuse, self-harm and mental health.

Family time is supported in line with relevant plans so that it meets children's individual needs and they can maintain relationships which are important to them.

Children who are new to the home are always welcomed sensitively and with the best possible planning. There is a robust referral process which is used to assess the needs of children who already live in the home and the impact for children who may be new to the home. This ensures that there is a child-centred approach when making decisions about whether children live in the home.

Children are making good progress with their education. When one child faced difficulties with their education provider, the manager and staff advocated on their behalf and ensured that the child's educational needs are being met. The manager has taken swift action to ensure that a child who is new to the home has access to education.

Children are supported and encouraged to explore their heritage and culture. They are provided with information and opportunities to experience different traditions to be able to make informed choices about their religious preferences.

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

Children's individual risks are detailed in their risk assessments. These are robust documents which are frequently updated and give clear guidance to staff to ensure consistent responses to children's behaviours. Staff understand the content in these documents and put it into practice.

The manager and staff have a good understanding of the children's individual needs and work collaboratively with the company's therapist. As a result, one child's self-harm behaviours have significantly reduced.

When children go missing from care, there are clear and comprehensive plans in place for staff to follow. The manager and staff work collaboratively with external professionals, such as the local police and missing-from-home team, to ensure well-coordinated responses. However, there was one occasion when a staff member did not follow these plans, which resulted in a delay in reporting the child missing from care.

Restraints are reasonable and proportionate. They are recorded appropriately, and all relevant professionals are notified. The manager has evaluated each incident, and children are given the opportunity for a debrief following an incident. However, these focus on the child's behaviour and do not ensure that the child understands the reason why a hold was necessary.

The manager enlists the support from external agencies when needed to educate the children in topics such as exploitation, knife crime and substance misuse. This helps the children to learn how to keep themselves safe. Direct-work sessions are proactive but are also delivered in response to new risks that arise.

There are some shortfalls in recruitment processes. There is not sufficient information in regard to staff employment history. This does not adhere to safer recruitment processes.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

There is an experienced manager in post, who shows an ambitious vision and has high expectations for what all children can achieve. The staff are positive about the manager and describe a supportive environment. Staff spoken to describe the manager as readily available to provide advice and guidance.

The manager uses internal and external monitoring of the home effectively and has a good vision for how he wants the home to develop. Leaders and the manager have a good understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses, which enables them to take effective action when required.

Staffing is consistent. There is a core team of staff who are suitably trained in mandatory subjects and to meet the children's individual needs. However, there are some training sessions which not all staff have completed, such as self-harm and domestic abuse.

Staff receive regular supervision. However, this is not always practice related and is a missed opportunity to review staff practice following significant events. It would also help staff to understand how their feelings affect their responses to children's behaviour.

Leaders and managers ensure that plans for children comprehensively identify their needs. However, they have not considered the local authority care plan for the child as they have not had access to up-to-date plans.

When children are having difficulties, the manager ensures that children's plans are reviewed promptly with the placing authority and has considered the best next steps to take. When a child left the home, the manager and staff promoted a positive move and ensured that the welfare and well-being of the child remained a priority.

## 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     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and</p> <p>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi)(vii))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should ensure that staff supporting the children report children missing from care in line with agreed plans.</p> | 3 March 2023 |
| <p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(c))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should ensure that current placing authority care plans are available.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3 March 2023 |
| <p>The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 3 March 2023 |

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| <p>The registered person may only—</p> <p>employ an individual to work at the children’s home if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3).</p> <p>The requirements are that—</p> <p>full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a) (3)(d))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should ensure that a full employment history is on file for each staff member, including start and end dates of previous employment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                             |              |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should ensure that staff practice is reviewed following significant events.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 3 March 2023 |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so (“the authorised person”)—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p> <p>within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(c))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should ensure that following a restraint, the child is spoken to about the reason the restraint has been necessary and that the staff involved have been spoken to about the use of the measure.</p> | 3 March 2023 |

## **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:** 2511662

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Sandcastle Care Limited

**Registered provider address:** 49 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool FY3 9DG

**Responsible individual:** Steven Lambert

**Registered manager:** Joseph McMillan

## **Inspector**

Katie Tomlinson, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate  
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Manchester  
M1 2WD

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