

2523028

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 one child with social and emotional needs.

The manager registered with Ofsted in June 2020.

Inspection dates: 24 and 25 January 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	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: 13 January 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/01/2022	Full	Good
03/03/2020	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff know the child well; they listen to them and invest time in them. When the child has any worries, they said that they can speak to the staff, who will listen to them. The child said, 'This is the best home that I have lived in. The staff really care about me.'

The manager and staff support the child's education. When the child has faced difficulties with education, the manager and staff have worked proactively to support them. As a result, their attendance improved, and they were able to sit their exams and achieve GCSEs in mathematics and English.

Staff always place the well-being of individual children at the centre of their practice. All of the child's achievements are celebrated and appropriately rewarded. However, these achievements are not always recorded.

Staff ensure that the child's health needs are met and that they have access to local health services. The child is provided with therapeutic care and support, which is informed by the company's therapist. This means that staff are able to support the child's complex needs effectively.

The child is supported and encouraged to develop their independent skills to help prepare them for adulthood. This is done in a way that is compatible with the child's age, ability and emotional needs. This targeted work helps to prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

The child is encouraged to take part in activities and hobbies that they enjoy. They are also supported to spend time with friends. This means that they have age-appropriate social interactions and can build skills and strategies to form and maintain relationships and gain a sense of their own identity.

Family time is supported in line with relevant plans, ensuring it meets the individual needs of the child and enables them to maintain relationships that are important to them.

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

The manager and staff have worked proactively and in partnership with external professionals to support and reduce the risk of exploitation. As a result, the number of missing-from-care episodes has significantly reduced for the child. When the child does 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 to missing-from-home episodes.

Incidents are managed well and are recorded appropriately. The manager has good oversight and has added their evaluation to each report. However, the actions that are taken by staff are not reviewed as part of the manager's oversight. This means that learning is not identified following significant events.

Direct work takes place on relevant topics, such as sexual health, self-harm, education and emotional well-being. This helps the child to learn how to keep themselves safe. These sessions are proactive and are also delivered in response to new risks that arise.

There have been no occasions when restraint has been used. This demonstrates that the strategies that are detailed in children's plans and staff training are effective.

Room searches are carried out when necessary. These are done sensitively and are appropriately recorded, including the reasons for the search and efforts to seek the child's consent and involvement in the search.

The child's individual risks are detailed in their plans. These plans are robust documents that are updated following significant events, and they give clear guidance to staff to ensure that there are consistent responses to children's behaviours. Staff understand these documents and put them into practice. However, plans do not include current strategies in response to self-harm behaviours. Despite this oversight in the plans, staff have supported the child appropriately, and as a result, the number of self-harm behaviours has reduced.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is an experienced manager in post. The manager shows an ambitious vision with high expectations for what the child can achieve. The manager has a good understanding of the child's progress and needs, and they instigate appropriate action when required.

There is a consistent staff team that provides stability for the child, which means that the child is always cared for by staff who know them well. Staff are suitably trained in mandatory subjects and attend sessions that are tailored to meet the child's individual needs. Staff said that the training is beneficial for the day-to-day care they provide to the child.

Team meetings are well attended and occur monthly. They cover topics that are relevant to the current matters arising in the home. They are used as a development opportunity for the team.

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

There are systems in place for the effective monitoring and review of the home. These ensure that the leaders and managers have good oversight of the home and are able to identify and address any issues. However, the quality of care review does not include a plan of actions to improve or maintain the ongoing quality of care provided for children.

The manager ensures that the home environment is maintained to a high standard, meets the needs of the child and feels and looks like a family home. It is a nice place for the child to spend time. The child said, 'I love my bedroom, and the staff make sure the house is really cosy and homely.'

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 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)) In particular, ensure that risk management plans contain up-to-date strategies to minimise risks to children's safety, specifically the strategies to manage self-harm behaviours.	26 February 2023
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) In particular, ensure that staff practice is reviewed following significant events.	26 February 2023
The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children;	26 February 2023

the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and

any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.

(Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c))

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the factors that affect children's motivation to behave in a socially acceptable way. Staff should encourage an enthusiasm for positive behaviour through the use of positive behaviour strategies in line with the child's relevant plans. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 39, paragraph 8.13)

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: 2523028

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: David Lahey

Registered manager: Robert Feehan

Inspector

Katie Tomlinson, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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