

2547847

Registered provider: Cheshire West and Chester Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority. It is registered to provide care for two children who have social or emotional difficulties.

There were two children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The home was registered in May 2020. The current manager was registered with Ofsted in April 2021.

Inspection dates: 21 and 22 February 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: 26 July 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/07/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff put the well-being of children and their individual needs at the centre of their practice. There are clear and consistent boundaries in place. This helps children to experience a sense of belonging and develop positive relationships with staff.

Children share their views, wishes and feelings, and staff involve them in decisions about their lives. Children's views are responded to, which ensures that they feel valued and listened to.

Children are encouraged to take part in activities and hobbies that they enjoy. They are supported to spend time with their friends. Staff also help children to spend time with their families. This helps children maintain a sense of their identity.

Staff meet children's health and well-being needs. They ensure that children see health professionals when necessary. Staff find specialised, external help if children need this.

Children make progress in their education. One child was not attending school regularly. However, the manager and staff have worked well with the child's school to support the child to improve their attendance. This was effective, and the child attends school every day.

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

Children have individualised risk assessments that address their known vulnerabilities. Risk assessments include strategies for staff to follow in practice. These assessments are up to date. This helps staff understand children's current vulnerabilities, and staff show a good understanding about how to keep children safe and reduce risk.

Staff talk to children about how to keep safe. This would be enhanced if staff spoke to children following specific incidents. This is a missed opportunity to continue to help children understand any risks to their safety.

Restraint is used as a last resort. When this has happened, it has been reasonable and proportionate to keep children and staff safe. Staff speak to children following any incidents so they understand why this was necessary. Managers also speak to staff about the incident. However, records do not demonstrate that these interventions are managed in line with regulations. Records do not include the date of the incident and an evaluation of the restraint used. A requirement has been made to address this shortfall.

Staff do not consistently record and evaluate any consequences that they give to children. This does not help staff understand what works well to support children or

identify any triggers to help staff improve the quality of care they provide for children.

Staff talk to children about any worries or concerns they may have. If necessary, staff involve other professionals to help children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is an experienced and qualified manager in post. The manager is ambitious, and she has high expectations for the children in her care. 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's monitoring and review systems are effective. She is aspirational about what she wants to achieve. She has a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the home and how to address these.

Staffing is consistent. There is a core staff team who have completed specific training to meet children's individual needs. However, there are gaps in this training. For example, not all staff have completed training in e-safety and suicide awareness.

Supervision sessions take place regularly and focus on children's experiences. Sessions are practice-led, and this helps staff reflect on their practice and learn from any incidents.

Staff attend frequent team meetings. These meetings provide staff with the opportunity to discuss any relevant topics. This helps staff develop their knowledge and reflect on any current matters arising in the home.

The manager and staff work positively with other professionals, such as social workers and education professionals. These relationships are effective in achieving positive outcomes for children. One social worker said, 'I have been impressed at how child-focused they are'.

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 registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline or restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must keep the behaviour management policy under review and, where appropriate, revise it. The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and	27 March 2023

a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; 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")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and 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 (1)(a)(b) (2) (3)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that debriefs for children and staff following a restraint take place within timescales and discuss the restraint used. In addition to this, any imposed consequences must be recorded and their effectiveness evaluated.	
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— help each child to understand how to keep safe. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(ii)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children are supported to understand how to keep safe through direct-work sessions aimed at known risks.	27 March 2023
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.	27 March 2023

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—

ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child.

(Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c))

In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff have completed mandatory training and training to meet the individual needs of the children.

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: 2547847

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Cheshire West & Chester Council, Council Offices, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 0BE

Responsible individual: Judith Griffith

Registered manager: Laura Wright

Inspector

Katie Tomlinson, Social Care Inspector

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