

2564415

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is one of a number of homes that is owned and operated by a private organisation.

This home provides care for up to two children with social and emotional needs. At the time of the inspection, there was one child living in the home.

The manager registered in February 2022.

Inspection dates: 30 November and 1 December 2022

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: 16 June 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/06/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child living at the home has trusting and positive relationships with staff. They said that if they have a problem they can talk to staff and they feel listened to. They also understand how to make a complaint. When they have raised concerns, their issues have been addressed and responded to. This positive response ensures that they feel that their views are valued.

Children's support plans are individualised and include the children's views. They are detailed and provide clear guidance for staff to ensure that they provide a consistent approach to the child's needs.

Children have access to a wide range of activities to meet their needs. Their hobbies are supported. However, alternatives are also explored with them to help and encourage them to try new things.

The manager and staff support the child's education. When the child was not attending school, they were supported to have a home tutor. The manager challenged relevant professionals to ensure that the child had access to a school that would meet their needs. When the child faces difficulties at school, the manager and staff work proactively with school staff to address any issues.

The manager and staff work positively with families to promote meaningful family time in line with agreed plans.

Children's health needs are met. They have access to local health services when they need them. They are supported to have a healthy lifestyle, which includes regular exercise. Children are provided with therapeutic care and support.

Children live in a home that is well presented, warm and welcoming. The child's bedroom is individualised to meet their needs and interests.

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

Risk assessments and behaviour support plans are detailed, and staff understand the individual risks for each child. The manager and staff work collaboratively with external professionals to support the children's needs.

When children go missing from care, there are clear and comprehensive plans in place for staff to follow. The staff are proactive in their responses when children go missing from the home, which has meant that children are often quickly located. The manager and staff work collaboratively with external professionals, such as the local police and missing-from-home team, to ensure well-coordinated responses when children do go missing from the home.

When it has been necessary to hold a child, it has been reasonable and proportionate. Following a hold, children have been spoken to, ensuring their understanding of why the hold was necessary. The manager monitors and evaluates all records of restraint.

The manager enlists the support from external agencies when needed, and direct work is completed with children following any incidents. However, there are missed opportunities for staff to help children understand how to keep themselves safe around issues such as substance misuse, healthy relationships and sexual health.

When children raise a concern, they are supported appropriately and all relevant professionals are informed. The manager and staff work collaboratively with professionals to ensure that the children receive any necessary support and their needs are met.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has an ambitious vision, with high expectations for what all children can achieve. The manager has a good understanding of the children's progress and needs, and instigates appropriate action when needed.

The staff are positive about the manager, and describe a supportive environment. Staff spoken to said that the manager is readily available to provide advice and guidance.

Staffing is consistent. There is a core team of staff in place, who are suitably trained in mandatory subjects. However, not all staff have training that is tailored to the specific individual needs of the children.

Team meetings and supervision take place regularly. However, they are not used to effectively reflect and learn from events, meaning that there is a lack of focus on children's experiences.

Leaders and managers use internal and external monitoring of the home effectively. The manager has a good vision of the development that she wants to achieve in the home and for staff growth.

There is a robust assessment process, which is used to assess the needs of children who already live in the home and children who may be new to the home. This ensures that there is a child-centred approach when making decisions about whether children should live together.

The manager ensures that plans for children comprehensively identify their needs. However, they do not take into account the local authority care plan for the child as they do not have access to the plans. These were requested during the inspection.

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— help each child to understand how to keep safe. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(ii)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that children receive appropriate help and advice to understand how to keep themselves safe.	6 January 2023
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(c)) This specifically relates to ensuring that up-to-date placing authority plans are available to staff.	6 January 2023

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff have completed training specifically for the children's individual needs. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.5)
- The registered person should ensure that staff practice is reflected on, and lessons learned are used to improve strategies that support the needs of the

children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

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: 2564415

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Suzanne Waters

Registered manager: Jacqueline Cornish

Inspector

Katie Tomlinson, Social Care Inspector

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