

2581296

Sandcastle Care Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company and provides care and accommodation for up to two young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2021.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out in line with Ofsted's procedures for monitoring services when there are concerns about the safety of children during the current period of suspended routine inspection activity. The visit was carried out using a combination of on-site and off-site activity.

The inspector found shortfalls in safeguarding practices and identified that the registered manager is not leading and managing the home in a manner that is consistent with the aims outlined in the statement of purpose.

The home registered with Ofsted in March 2020. Since registration, the previous manager was promoted and resigned from the post. The company has recruited a permanent registered manager, who has stepped up from a deputy manager position.

There have been two separate serious incidents that occurred in the early hours of the morning when the child had been left unsupervised due to staff negligence. This placed the child at risk of harm, and it fails to demonstrate that staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Following the serious incidents, the provider took appropriate action against the staff members involved and introduced safeguarding strategies to prevent further incidents occurring. However, not all staff then followed the strategies in place to keep the child safe.

The registered manager has not included all known risks when undertaking impact risk assessments. This does not ensure that children's needs are fully understood or carefully planned for.

Some care documents in the home provide staff with conflicting information about the strategies in place to minimise risks. For example, not all documents provide the same information about the safety measures in place for when the child is travelling in a vehicle. Consequently, staff practice is not consistent when minimising risks. The registered manager had not identified this conflicting information.

The inspector found that not all areas of the premises are secure and designed to keep the child safe. The padlock on the gate in the rear yard was unlocked and window restrictors in the child's bedroom were broken. Dangerous substances and sharp, hazardous items, including knives and scissors, were not stored securely. Given the nature of the child's behaviours and strategies implemented to keep the child safe, this is crucial, and it fails to demonstrate that the registered manager and staff are consistently following the safety measures in place.

Staff do not always work together as a team and have not consistently followed the risk management strategies in place to keep the child safe. Although staff have received training in areas such as safeguarding, self-harm and trauma, this has not had the desired impact in bringing about a reduction of incidents and stability needed for the child. The registered manager and staff are unable to demonstrate that they have sufficient skills and experience to manage the complex behaviours of the child effectively and support her to consistently achieve positive outcomes.

The home's monitoring and review systems are not robust. Although incidents occurring inside and outside the home are reviewed and evaluated by the registered manager, they do not identify what is working well, any weaknesses in practice and what needs to happen to make sure the child is safe. Furthermore, the registered manager was unclear if the shortfalls identified during the visit are serious incidents and notifiable.

Despite the shortfalls identified, the child spoke positively about the staff who care for her. Work has been completed with the child about the dangers surrounding social media platforms and she has a good awareness of the associated risks.

Children living in the home have access to the company's therapist. The child spoke positively about the support she has received from the therapist. The child said that this has helped her start to understand her emotions. However, due to the therapist being unable to visit the home, the child feels that this has had an unsettling effect on her behaviour.

Staff have access to individual supervision sessions, team meetings and daily handovers. This provides staff with opportunities to reflect on their practice.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
Not previously inspected		

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; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v)) This relates to staff's understanding and implementation of each child's risk assessment, and their role in keeping children and the premises safe and secure.	28 March 2021
*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 staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;	28 March 2021

ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(c)(d)(h)) This relates to staff training, sufficiency of staffing to reflect the needs of the children and monitoring of the home's practice by the manager.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)) This specifically relates to the need to making sure all necessary information is captured on the impact risk assessments, including relevant background histories, in order to make an accurate assessment of the risk factors associated with any new admissions and also the potential risk on other children in placement.	28 March 2021
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. A notification made under this regulation— must include details of— the matter; the other persons, bodies or organisations (if any) who or which have been notified; and any actions taken by the registered person as a result of the matter; must be made or confirmed in writing. (Regulation 40 (4)(e) (5)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(b))	28 March 2021

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the home's safeguarding practice. This was due to an escalation in serious incidents arising from notifications.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2581296

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Penny Rafferty

Registered manager: Kirsty McGowan

Inspector

Mike Charnley, Social Care Inspector

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M1 2WD

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