

2582246

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company and provides care for two children. The provider states in its statement of purpose that it provides care for two children who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The registered manager has been registered with Ofsted since March 2020.

Inspection date: 30 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 1 September 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

At the last inspection, a requirement was made with regards to staff training in key areas concerning children's safety and welfare. All staff are now trained around physical restraint, drug and alcohol misuse, self-harm and first aid. Also, staffing at the home is now sufficient to meet the demands of children's risk assessments. These assessments are kept up to date and are specific to each child.

Since the last inspection, there have not been any allegations, complaints, incidents of children going missing from home or concerns regarding the exploitation of children.

There are currently two children living in the home. One child has recently been admitted. The other child has resided at the home for two years; however, the manager has recently made the decision to bring their placement to an end. The manager no longer considers that they can meet the child's needs.

There have been several incidents of physical restraint, which have been necessary to keep a child safe. However, recordings made by staff with regards to these incidents lack detail. This limits insight into how future physical restraints may be prevented. Although the manager evaluates individual incidents, she does not currently evaluate patterns or trends. A requirement is made in respect of this.

Staff have not always responded to children's behaviour in a way that is helpful to the child. For example, on some occasions when staff have spoken to a child about incidents, they have taken a negative approach. On one occasion, a child was prevented from sitting in the main lounge for the evening, following an incident. The child's behaviours have not been reflected on and their previous life experiences have not been considered. A requirement is made in respect of this.

The child who has recently moved to the home has settled in well. She feels her identity and self-expression are fully supported by the staff. She commented, 'I get to be myself here. They support my choice.'

Both children are encouraged to develop a sense of ownership in the home and are regularly consulted with regards to the activities they would like to do. Activities include gymnastics, drama clubs, horse riding, trips to the cinema and attending festivals and concerts.

Both children attend school regularly. Staff work hard to ensure that children maintain good routines that support their overall health and development.

Plans are developed in the home that cover important aspects of children's lives. However, these plans are not fully evaluated or measured for progress. Although summaries provide weekly updates, there is no means of critically evaluating the overall plans, or how these plans help prevent incidents. A requirement is made in respect of this.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/09/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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 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 must be made that includes— details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(ii)(v)) This particularly relates to staff providing detail in their recordings to enable greater insight and inform analysis of patterns, trends and overall evaluation.	30 April 2022
The positive relationship standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have	30 April 2022

the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children. (Regulation 11(1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ix)) This particularly relates to staff supporting children in a positive way following incidents, not using social isolation as a means of managing behaviour and understanding the primary emotions for children's behaviour.	
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture 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— understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation (1) (2)(f)) This particularly refers to managerial analysis and evaluation of incidents to improve staff care and developing the home's placement plans so that they are specific, measurable and reviewed.	30 April 2022

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff record on children's files in a way that will be helpful to children in the future and avoids negative language and tone when describing children's behaviours. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: 2582246

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Penelope Rafferty

Registered manager: Susan Towers

Inspector

Pauline Yates, Social Care Inspector

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