

2590699

Registered provider: Care 4 Every Child 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 provides care and support for up to four children who can no longer live at home.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in December 2021.

Inspection dates: 31 May and 1 June 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: 2 November 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/11/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
11/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The manager has improved the referral process for children coming to live in the home. This includes the consideration of each child's needs. However, the manager has not considered the home's location area report as part of the process. As a result, she has not considered all potential risks and whether these would have any bearing on the suitability of the placement.

Children have made good progress in most areas of their lives while living in this home. Generally, the children's information is in good order and is accessible to the children. However, information is not detailed about the support that the staff provide to children with their health, education, relationships and behaviours. This is a missed opportunity to show all the work completed to enable children to achieve positive outcomes.

Children are supported to attend and engage in education regularly. They know how important education is and respond well to the educational incentives in place. Consequently, the children's outcomes have improved. Similarly, staff help the children to adopt healthy lifestyles by encouraging them to eat a healthy diet and to engage in physical exercise. However, the manager and staff are not aware of the local offer, setting out the support available for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This is a missed opportunity to access additional resources for children.

Children can regularly share their views about the home and the plans for their own care. They have regular discussions with their key workers, other staff and the manager during children's meetings, key-work sessions and reviews.

Members of staff work closely with the children, their parents, family members and professionals so that they see each other regularly. This focus on positive family time means that important relationships are maintained and built on.

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

Children say that they feel safe, and that staff do their very best to safeguard them, including teaching them about risky or unsafe choices, such as unhealthy relationships. One child said, 'This is the safest that I have felt in a long time.'

The inspector observed positive interactions between children and staff during the visit. A professional said, 'I believe that the placement has been consistent, and that staff have worked well with the other agencies. This has ensured that the child has been kept safe, while promoting her independence and, fundamentally, having her voice heard.'

Generally, safeguarding practice at the home is good. However, on one occasion, a child raised a concern when discussing an incident. The member of staff did not follow the safeguarding procedure and this caused a delay. This was raised by the independent visitor. The responsible individual completed a fact-finding investigation. However, the child has not received a formal written outcome. Considering the response from the member of staff, the manager has put in extra safeguarding measures, such as refresher training in safeguarding procedures and discussions with staff in supervisions.

Some children, who have now left the home, were missing for extended periods of time. Children often went missing together. Therefore, professionals agreed that alternative placements were required. This allowed staff to work with the remaining children around keeping themselves safe. When children go missing from the home, staff follow the agreed protocols and search the local area and try to find the children. Return-home interviews are completed by an independent person. Therefore, children have been able to share the reasons why they went missing and action has been taken to support the children. As a result, some children have significantly reduced their missing-from-home episodes.

Children say that the rewards and incentives systems in the home encourage them to be good. Likewise, children say that sanctions are fair and that they are given the opportunity to make things right.

Safe recruitment and health and safety practices at the home ensure that only the most suitable staff work at the home and that it is a safe place to live. Records show that children, staff and visitors are taken through the emergency evacuation procedure.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced and has achieved a leadership and management qualification. Most staff are qualified or working towards a childcare qualification. The staff also benefit from a wealth of training and development opportunities to support their professional development. This means that children are cared for by a qualified, experienced and well-trained staff team.

The manager has high aspirations for the children living at the home and ensures that they are provided with a good quality of care. Children, family members and professionals spoken to as part of this inspection were complimentary about the manager's skills, knowledge and ability to work closely with them. One professional said, 'There is a clear thread of communication, so that there is a clear understanding of the child's needs.'

The manager provides the staff with regular and effective supervision that enables them to reflect on their practice. This is in addition to monthly team meetings, where staff can share their knowledge and discuss the children in depth. As a result, staff said that they felt supported, valued and motivated.

Monitoring and review systems at the home help the manager to identify the home's strengths and weaknesses. The manager is then able to alter her practice when necessary to make improvements that are in the best interests of the children.

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— understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi)(vii))	31 August 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children's views are listened to and acted upon. Specifically, children should receive a formal response to any concerns raised. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.11)
- The registered person should ensure that managers and staff are aware of the local offer setting out the support available for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards' page 26, paragraph 5.4)
- The registered person should continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them. Specifically, the registered person should consider the local community risks that are identified in the safer area report when considering new referrals to the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)

- The registered person should ensure that the home's records on each child represent a significant contribution to their life history. This is specifically in relation to ensuring that the steps taken by staff to secure good progress and outcomes are clearly recorded in the children's records. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.5)

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: 2590699

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Care 4 Every Child Limited

Registered provider address: Allen Mills Howard & Co, Library Chambers, 48
Union Street, Hyde SK14 1ND

Responsible individual: Andrew Taylor

Registered manager: Lisa Grimes

Inspector

Pam Nuckley, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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