

2590726

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a private organisation and is registered to care for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager has been in post since 30 January 2024.

Inspection dates: 13 and 14 March 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 8 February 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/02/2023	Full	Good
08/06/2021	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

At the time of the inspection there were no children living at the home. Two children moved out of the home in August 2023, due to insufficient staffing. The moves were unplanned and created some instability for the children.

During the inspection period, one child was not in school for several months. The action taken by leaders and managers to support the child's return to school was ineffective. Leaders and managers have not been able to demonstrate that they advocated for the child to return to school. In addition, the child was not provided with resources to enable them to participate in alternative education activity at the home.

When children live at the home, children's meetings take place routinely and provide them with an opportunity to contribute to decisions about their day-to-day care. Attendance at these meetings helps children to express their views in a positive way.

Children are supported to spend time with members of their family. This engagement with family helps children maintain relationships with people who are important to them.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

There has been one allegation made during the inspection period. This has been managed well by leaders and managers. In accordance with statutory guidance, a thorough investigation has taken place and the child has been informed of the outcome.

A new team has been recruited to ensure that there are sufficient staff to care for children. Leaders and managers understand that their experience and knowledge of safeguarding practices are varied. They have put in place measures, such as staff training and a review of safeguarding practices, to ensure that staff can competently meet children's needs. As there are no children living at the home, the ability of staff to safeguard children cannot be assessed.

Pre-employment checks for new employees are completed with consideration to safer recruitment practice. However, leaders and managers have not consistently ensured that gaps in staff's employment history have been explored.

Leaders, managers and staff routinely complete health and safety checks in the home to ensure that the physical environment is safe for children. However, the manager has not consulted with partners such as the police to understand risks to children in the community.

When physical restraint is used, leaders and managers review incidents to ensure that staff have acted in accordance with statutory guidance. This reduces the risk of children experiencing unnecessary harm and distress.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

There have been changes to the staffing arrangements since the last inspection. The registered manager resigned from their post, leaving the home in July 2023. In August 2023, the remaining staff team resigned, leaving only the newly appointed manager, who became the registered manager in January 2024.

A detailed training induction programme is being delivered to the staff team. This covers areas such as safeguarding, positive behaviour support, fire safety and first aid. At the time of the inspection, not all staff had completed the training but were scheduled to complete it before children move into the home.

Formal practice-led supervision has not taken place regularly in accordance with the organisation's statement of purpose. This is a missed opportunity for managers to consider gaps in staff's practice and to put in place plans for their development.

Management oversight of the home has been poor. Monitoring systems have not been used effectively to identify shortfalls in staff's practice and performance, and to ensure that the quality of care provided to children is good. The new manager and responsible individual understand the home's strengths and weaknesses and have introduced systems to monitor the running of the home and the care and support that children receive.

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, The 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 leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(a)(c)(h)) Specifically, leaders and managers should ensure staff are supported through regular practice-led supervision. In addition, leaders and managers should ensure that staff are up to date with their training, in preparation for children moving into the home.	9 May 2024
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—	9 May 2024

that arrangements are in place to— plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child’s placing authority. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(iii))	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children’s safety. The requirements are that— full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (3)(d)) Specifically ensuring that any gaps in employment are fully explored and recorded.	9 May 2024

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: 2590726

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Registered provider address: The Forge, Church Street West, Woking, Surrey
GU21 6HT

Responsible individual: Grace Cookson

Registered manager: Rebecca Fishwick

Inspector

Chibuzo Otache, Social Care Inspector

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