

2592030

Registered provider: Carlar Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides specialist therapeutic care for up to four children.

Three children were living in the home at the time of this inspection.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in December 2023.

Inspection dates: 5 and 6 June 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
---	-------------

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 11 July 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/07/2023	Full	Good
14/03/2023	Full	Good
26/05/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home environment is very warm and welcoming. Some of the staff bring their dogs into the home and the children really enjoy having them around and like to spend time with them. Bedrooms have been personalised to individual children's tastes and are very spacious. The home has a large outdoor space for the children to enjoy, which includes areas for planting vegetables.

Children are very settled in the home and feel safe around the staff working with them. The children ooze confidence. Staff have built strong, trusting and safe relationships with the children and give them a sense of belonging.

Children's views are gathered in a variety of ways, including during monthly consultations with the registered manager, as well as through day-to-day practice. Staff understand children's preferred methods of communication and consistently support children to participate fully in their daily lives.

Children are provided with a range of social, educational and recreational opportunities, tailored to their abilities. Children participate in community-based activities as well as going on day trips and holidays.

The registered manager ensures that when a child moves in or out of the home, the transition is planned well, and the child is given the time that they need to adjust. The needs and feelings of children already living in the home are also considered. Staff remain in contact with children when they move on.

Staff support children to develop their independence safely, according to their individual needs. The manager is a ferocious advocate for the children and challenges other professionals if there are concerns about future planning for children, including the timing of when they will leave the home. This advocacy is a particular strength of the home.

Children are encouraged to attend school and are progressing well, taking into account their individual starting points. When a school place has not yet been identified for a child, staff are proactive in supporting educational activities while vociferously advocating for a return to full-time education as soon as possible.

Staff support children with their health needs and ensure that they have access to local health services. Staff liaise well with health professionals to ensure that children have the best healthcare available.

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

Children live in a safe environment. Health and safety procedures are effective. Any maintenance requirements are quickly resolved, and the manager ensures that the home is maintained to a high standard. Regular fire drills and checks are undertaken by staff. However, some staff have not kept their fire-safety training up to date. Despite this, staff and children know what is expected in an emergency to keep themselves and others safe. Managers have reviewed the use of the home's alarms on the front and back doors, in relation to helping to keep children safe, however, their use is not regularly reviewed with the children's placing authority.

Staff understand the risks and vulnerabilities of the children and respond to any concerns swiftly. Children's plans and risk assessments are comprehensive and give a great insight into their needs and risks and how these are to be managed to ensure their safety and well-being. Staff work in line with safeguarding policies and procedures and escalate concerns to other professionals when required, including the police and health colleagues.

Knowledgeable staff can explain the processes and procedures when a child discloses a concern or makes an allegation. All necessary action and appropriate steps are taken in a child-focused and timely manner.

Incidents are well managed. Staff appropriately attempt to de-escalate situations through a patient approach. They use verbal reassurance and distraction techniques. Physical intervention is only ever used as a last resort to ensure the safety of children and/or others. The manager's review of incidents is reflective, takes account of potential triggers for children, and provides guidance to staff on adapting their approach in the future.

Children are happy living in the home and rarely go missing. When children do go missing, staff take effective action to ensure that they return safely. They liaise effectively with the police and social workers and discuss these incidents with children to better understand how to support them to make positive decisions and stay safe.

Children are protected from online risks in the home and are provided with supervised access to the internet, appropriate to their individual ages.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by an extremely ambitious manager who strives to provide children with the best possible care. The manager is supported by a proactive responsible individual who knows the home's strengths and the areas of practice that can be improved.

Reflective group sessions are provided for staff and supported by an external child psychotherapist. The home has an in-house therapeutic lead who provides advice, guidance and support on therapeutic parenting. Staff are able to incorporate this

knowledge into daily practice. This is a real asset to the home and ensures that children are cared for consistently by experienced and well-informed staff.

Staff receive good-quality practice-related supervision. However, not all staff have received an annual appraisal, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. However, the manager is proactive in encouraging and educating staff on good practice.

There are some gaps in staff training. The manager has ensured that improvements have been made in terms of specific training required to meet children's individual needs. However, some mandatory training, such as health and safety and fire safety, has not been completed or refreshed by all the team within the provider's own timescales.

The manager knows the children very well and has a range of monitoring systems that effectively identify the home's strengths and the improvements needed. The manager has a clear understanding of every aspect of the children's lives and has high expectations for the children to make significant progress.

The responsible individual also understands the children's backgrounds well and the progress that they have made. She has formed positive relationships with the children and is passionate about them being well cared for.

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— In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1) (2)(c)) In particular, ensure that staff training is reviewed and refreshed regularly to ensure that staff knowledge and skills remain relevant and up to date.	31 July 2024
The registered person must ensure that all employees— have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(c))	31 July 2024

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that just as in a family home, children should be able to access all shared areas of their home unless there are specific reasons why this would not meet a child's needs. Limits on privacy and access may only be put in place to safeguard each child in the home (regulation 21(c)(i)). Any decisions to limit a child's access to any area of the home and any modifications to the environment of the home, must only be made where this is intended to safeguard the child's welfare. All decisions should be informed by a rigorous assessment of that individual child's needs, be properly recorded and be kept under regular review. This is in relation to the use of the door alarms and keeping them under regular review with the placing authority. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.10)

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: 2592030

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Carlar Care Limited

Registered provider address: 23 St Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1HH

Responsible individual: Janet Hunnam

Registered manager: Rowen Bodle

Inspector

Emma Haskell, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024