

2592713

Registered provider: Homes for Support Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private organisation. It provides care for up to five children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home is operated by a registered manager.

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

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 January 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: 28 September 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/09/2022	Full	Good
10/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
01/02/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Planning for children's care is good. Children's permanency plans are in place and help to guide staff in their work with them. Children are happy and settled in the home and make progress towards their placement goals.

Staff encourage positive relationships and support children to have planned contact with their families and friends. Staff take steps to build relationships with all families. As a result, there is a shared approach to the care planning for children.

Children are provided with information about how to make a complaint, including external telephone numbers and support services. The manager responds swiftly to investigate and manage any concerns raised by children and consults appropriately with placing authorities.

Children are encouraged to give their views. They are consulted on matters such as the weekly menu, activities, decor and special events. Regular children's meetings take place and children are provided with feedback forms to offer their views and opinions on the home, staff and their care.

Staff receive assistance from an external trauma-centred psychologist to understand children's behaviour. Behaviour management strategies are built around the child and assist staff in the positive management of unwanted behaviours. Overall, consequences are minimal. This is because staff work with children to recognise the impact of their behaviour on themselves and others.

Educational attendance is encouraged and supported. Overall, children's attendance is good and positive progress is achieved. One child has clear aspirations for their future and is on target to achieve in his college course.

Children's health needs are met. They are registered with health professionals and appointments are made, as necessary. However, records of prescribed medication fail to include why the medication has been prescribed and if there are potential side effects to be aware of. Likewise, records do not always include the actions staff have taken when a child has sustained an injury.

Children are supported to lead healthy lifestyles and have healthy diets. Some children participate in planning, shopping and preparing meals to provide them with skills in budgeting and planning for living independently.

Children are encouraged to take part in activities and leisure pursuits. Children visit places of interest, such as theme parks, and they enjoy going to the cinema with staff and friends.

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

Staff have a good understanding of the children's lives and the steps to follow to keep them safe. Incidents are recorded and reviewed by the manager. Children's views are sought, and actions are clear. Incidents are followed up through key-work sessions and debriefs which focus on keeping children safe. However, some of the written terminology in case records could be more child friendly and focus more on impact for children rather than on behaviour.

Children are supported with a clear safety plan when there are risks in their lives. Child protection procedures are followed to ensure that there is good oversight of the safety plans from all relevant agencies.

The staff are trained to safely intervene and only hold children as a last resort, to keep everyone safe. Incidents are recorded in detail. The manager and staff reflect on incidents to try to identify children's triggers to mitigate future concerns.

Children rarely go missing. There has been one missing-from-care episode during the last 12 months. Staff follow the missing-from-home protocol and are proactive in searching for the child. The staff work well with multi-agencies and ensure that the relevant agencies are kept informed. Staff carry out key-work sessions with children which focus on the risks and dangers when they are missing.

The home has effective links with local authorities, local authority designated officers and other important safeguarding agencies. There is effective communication about safeguarding issues, such as any injuries sustained during restraints or allegations against staff. Staff understand how to refer to the local authority designated officer and take immediate action should a concern arise.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager and staff team have developed a caring, supportive and aspirational culture for the child to thrive and grow. The children receive informed and consistent good-quality care.

Half of the staff team have successfully completed a relevant childcare qualification. They receive consistent and targeted training, including clinical input, to assist them in how they support the children. A staff member said, 'We work closely with the clinical team to get the best for our children. We are dedicated to the children.' Staff have received a range of online learning to help to broaden their knowledge and skills. However, there is no system in place to check if staff understand how to put the online learning into practice.

The registered manager sets the standards for the team and leads from the front. She provides regular formal and informal supervision and guides the staff in the development of a safe and nurturing environment for children.

There is a consistent and skilled staff team. Staff say that they are happy in their role and that they receive a high level of consistent support and guidance.

As part of the company's development plan, the company is working with external mental health therapists. Monthly consultation sessions with staff and children take place and provide the foundation for all the work being carried out in the home. This professional input is positively reflected in the progress children make.

The registered manager is consistent in her approach to monitoring the quality of care provided and the positive effect that this is having on the children.

The care provided in the home is supported and organised to reflect the theoretical framework of attachment. The staff work closely together to create an environment where the children are safe, valued, respected and accepted. This is evident in children's progress and achievements.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that records of prescribed medication include the reason why the medication has been prescribed and any potential side effects. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the standards', page 35, paragraph 7.15)
- The registered person should ensure that records are written in plain English and do not include institutional references. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the standards', page 62, paragraph 14.5)
- The registered person should ensure that any injuries sustained by a child are fully recorded. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the standards', page 34, paragraph 7.12)
- The registered person should ensure that staff undertaking online training understand how to apply this in practice. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)

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: 2592713

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Homes for Support Limited

Registered provider address: Northern House, 3 Kennerleys Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5EQ

Responsible individual: Andrew Duffy

Registered manager: Stacey Warren

Inspectors

Maria McGranaghan, Social Care Inspector
Sarah Probert, Social Care 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 children looked after, 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://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

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