

2595021

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

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

The home registered with Ofsted in July 2020, and the manager registered in December 2023.

One child was living at the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 February 2025

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: 30 January 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/01/2024	Full	Good
14/03/2023	Full	Good
09/11/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child is settled and happy in their home. The manager and staff provide the child with personalised care. The child's care plan is understood and followed by staff. This ensures that the child receives consistent care. The child's social worker said, '[Name of child] is doing really well. The staff are excellent and proactive. They make the effort to ensure all the child's care needs are met, where possible.'

Staff show a commitment to the children they care for, which continues when children move out of the home. For example, staff supported one child who no longer lives at the home to secure an apprenticeship. Staff celebrate children's time living in the home, and when they move out of the home, they experience carefully planned transitions. This helps children to experience positive endings and to settle into their new home. The parent of one child who recently moved out of the home said, 'The staff are amazing. They did so much for [Name of child]. They allowed him to stay on at the home until his flat was ready.'

The manager and staff work closely with education professionals to secure the best education options for the child. The child is currently being educated at school and has a personalised timetable. The child is making good progress in education. Managers and staff understand the child's barriers to learning, and they support the child's wishes for education to remain in a school setting.

Staff encourage the child to attend routine health appointments. The manager and staff work with the company's therapist and external agencies to support the child's emotional health and well-being.

The manager and staff have positive relationships with the child. This means they can support, guide and advise them, to enhance their development. The child has the opportunity to share their views, wishes and feelings and have input into decisions about their life. This supports the child to feel listened to, valued and respected.

The child has a good routine and structure in place and is supported to develop their independence skills in line with their age and individual needs. This supports the child to develop necessary skills in preparation for adulthood.

Staff support the child to spend time with their family and friends. Staff have good relationships with family members, which helps the child to maintain relationships with people who are important to them.

The home is decorated to a good standard throughout. The child has recently moved bedrooms and was encouraged to have a say in the decoration and furniture for their new bedroom. This creates a sense of belonging and identity, and enables the child to invest and take pride in their home.

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

The child's risks reduce because of the care and effective safeguarding practice that they receive from staff. Staff understand their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. The child's plan details their known needs, risks and vulnerabilities and provides staff with clear steps to take to keep the child safe.

Staff provide clear routines, boundaries and consistent care. This creates stability for the child and helps them to understand what is expected of them. Staff use rewards and incentives to encourage positive choices, which enables the child to take responsibility for their own behaviours.

Staff are trained in physical intervention and de-escalation. However, they have not had to use physical intervention to keep the child safe. This is due to the positive relationships staff have built, which allows the staff to successfully de-escalate situations and support the child to regulate their emotions.

Staff help the child to understand risks and develop strategies to manage difficult feelings safely. This teaches them life skills for their future. One social worker described a child who recently moved out as 'a totally different child', highlighting the success of the staff's efforts in helping them understand their emotions and navigate challenging situations.

The staff maintain the home to a high standard and ensure that it is a safe environment for the child to live in.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Professionals, staff and the child speak highly of the manager and the level of support they receive from him. One staff member said, 'We get good support from the manager. They ask about me, which is nice and shows they care.'

Team meetings and staff supervisions are reflective, allowing staff to review challenging situations and share best practices. This creates a positive and consistent approach to care. Staff receive an annual appraisal, which provides feedback on their performance. This helps staff to develop their skills to enable them to provide the best quality of care for the child.

Staff are recruited safely. They have a detailed induction plan that includes undertaking the relevant training for their role. The staff are given opportunities to develop and progress in the organisation if they choose. However, some staff have not achieved their appropriate qualifications within the required timescale, despite this being raised as a recommendation at the last full inspection.

The manager has formed positive working relationships with professionals. Feedback from professionals is extremely positive. The manager appropriately challenges professionals when they do not take appropriate action to meet child's needs. This ensures that any delays for the child are resolved quickly.

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
For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home; or in the case of an individual who was working in a care role in a home on 1st April 2014, 1st April 2016. (Regulation 32 (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)(b))	1 July 2025

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: 2595021

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Ltd

Registered provider address: 2 Barton Close, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester LE19 1SJ

Responsible individual: Grace Cookson

Registered manager: David Hunter

Inspector

Deborah Turner, Social Care Inspector

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