

2595112

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Ltd

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. The home provides care and support for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since January 2022.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 August 2023

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: 19 April 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/04/2023	Full	Inadequate
21/04/2022	Full	Good
12/01/2022	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
01/09/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

There was one child living in the home at the time of the inspection. One child recently moved out of the home. This move was made in line with plans for his future. Therefore, the child experienced a positive end to his time spent living at the home.

Staff encourage children to participate in a variety of activities and help them participate in their individual hobbies and interests. Staff help children to take part in charity runs and musical performances. This helps children to develop their own identities and supports positive self-esteem.

Staff take time to build trusting relationships with children. Staff listen to children and advocate for them when appropriate. This caring approach helps children feel settled. Consequently, children live in a home where they feel valued, and they have a sense of belonging. One child told inspectors that they are happy living at this home.

Staff help children to maintain relationships with their family members and other people who are important to them. Staff support children to spend time with their families so children can continue to take part in important family events. This helps children maintain a sense of identity and belonging.

Staff have high aspirations for children. Staff help children to understand the importance of education, and they encourage them to attend school. Therefore, children make progress in education. One child completed exams and gained employment. Staff work collaboratively with specialist agencies to ensure that children are provided with relevant advice and guidance to help with their future.

Staff understand children's individual health needs. Staff help children to attend routine and specialist health appointments, and staff encourage children to follow their individual health plans. Staff have clear and up-to-date recording systems in place to monitor children's health needs effectively.

Children's individual plans are not consistently reviewed and updated by managers to reflect their current care arrangements. Staff do not have up-to-date children's plans from placing authorities, and the challenge from leaders to receive these plans is not sufficient. A requirement is made to reflect this shortfall.

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

There is a proactive approach to managing risk. Staff understand children's vulnerabilities. Staff take a multi-agency approach to managing risk and this contributes to an overall effective safeguarding approach.

Leaders and staff also take a proactive approach to maintaining the home and respond quickly to any repairs needed. Because of this, the physical environment is safe and the potential risk of harm to children is reduced.

Staff understand children's individual vulnerabilities. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. During the inspection, staff spoke confidently about children's individual needs, and it was clear that they understand children's triggers and what measures they need to take to manage these and reduce risk.

There has been a significant reduction in missing-from-care incidents since the last inspection. Staff understand the triggers that can lead to children going missing from care, and they help children understand the risks associated with going missing from care. This approach has reduced the risk of harm to children.

Staff review safeguarding policies and procedures. This helps staff to develop their knowledge. Staff are well trained in safeguarding. For example, staff spoken to demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding about what action they need to take if a child makes an allegation against a member of staff.

Staff identify specialist support to keep children safe. For example, a member of the local police team visited the children and completed a presentation on knife crime for a child at risk of criminal exploitation.

The registered manager has completed a location risk assessment. However, this does not include consultation with all relevant people when considering the appropriateness and the suitability of the home's location.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is managed by an appropriately qualified registered manager, who is ambitious for the children in her care. The registered manager is child focused and she leads a stable and nurturing staff team. Children receive consistent care from a stable and committed staff team. This is helping children to make progress from their individual starting points.

The registered manager identifies specific training for staff that is relevant to children's individual needs. For example, the registered manager arranged for specialist training in respect of a child's health condition. This helps staff understand how to manage the child's specific health needs.

Staff receive frequent supervision. Records demonstrate that supervision provides staff with an opportunity to reflect on their practice. Supervision also helps the registered manager to identify any gaps in staff skills and knowledge. Consequently, children receive effective care from a well-trained and competent staff team.

Since the last inspection, leaders and managers have introduced and implemented a more effective monitoring system to help them review the quality of care they

provide for children. This helps the registered manager continue to make improvements to the quality of care that children receive.

Staff told inspectors that they are supported by the registered manager. Staff say that supervision is frequent and it helps them to improve their practice. Staff attend regular team meetings. These meetings are child focused and provide staff with an opportunity to discuss relevant issues regarding the care that they provide for 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, 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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that each child's relevant plans are followed. Specifically, children should benefit from up-to-date placing authority care plans that inform care planning arrangements. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(c)).	19 September 2023
The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)(c) (the protection of children standard). When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person. (Regulation 46 (1) (2)).	19 September 2023

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: 2595112

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Ltd

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

Responsible individual: Claire Holtby

Registered manager: Lorraine Butler

Inspectors

Chibuzo Otache, Social Care Inspector
Nichola Croft, Social Care Inspector

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