

2595182

Registered provider: Solace Care 7kings Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home. In its statement of purpose, the provider states that it provides care to children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home was registered with Ofsted on 19 October 2020 with its current manager.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

This was the home's first inspection.

Inspection dates: 28 to 29 April 2021

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: not applicable

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date

Inspection type

Inspection judgement

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

One child said that this is a happy home. Other children also said positive things about the home and were observed joyfully laughing with staff. Staff's welcoming attitudes and emotional warmth help children to feel comfortable and safe.

Staff enable children to express their feelings, views and choices in the knowledge that they will always be respected and supported. Children report feeling listened to. This helps them to engage with staff and develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Staff have excellent knowledge and understanding of children. A therapist said that staff are curious about the individual children and make a genuine effort to provide the best for children in their care. A mental health specialist from a youth offending team talked about staff's empathy and the positive impact that this has on the well-being of children.

All children have a well-being box with content that they specifically chose for themselves. Staff use children's preferences, interests and talents to positively engage them. An effective key-working system complements the less structured discussions to help children to develop their personal, social and life skills.

Staff support children's positive relationships with their families and friends. This includes children who are placed at a distance from their families. A parent talked with appreciation about the staff's positive influence on his son.

Staff have developed strong partnerships with the wider network of professionals to ensure that children receive holistic care. An example of this is how they support children to engage with their personal tutors and continue to learn even when they are not able to attend their schools. One teacher commented that the home's staff have found a way of working with a particular child that secures this child's engagement in online learning.

All professionals spoken to are highly satisfied with the quality of care provided and the progress that children are making. They had only very positive things to say about the quality of support provided to children and the difference that the home was making in children's lives.

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

Staff safeguarding practices are proactive, collaborative and relationship based. Children's trusting relationships with staff allow them to develop feelings of well-being, security and safety.

Staff appropriately involve children in finding out what helps them to be safer. Staff work in effective partnerships with other professionals to identify and implement

safeguarding interventions. The awareness of contextual risks and the multi-agency approach to risk management result in children's increased safety. A professional from a youth offending team said that the staff do everything they can to keep a child safe.

Staff enable children to build positive relationships within the home. Children talked warmly about each other and reported having positive peer relationships. There is no bullying, intimidation or discrimination in this home.

Staff reinforce rules and expectations in a firm, caring and non-judgmental manner. Children know what would happen if they do not abide by the rules. Children sign up to making efforts to do their best. Staff favour reflecting with children about the behaviours rather than using sanctions. A clear system for rewarding children's constructive behaviours is in place and their behaviour is evaluated on a weekly basis.

Incidents of children behaving in ways that challenge adults are rare. When they happen, staff manage the incidents well. Through targeted keywork sessions and reflective debriefs, staff help children to find safer, healthier and more constructive behaviours. One child talked about staff helping him to manage his anger better.

Staff minimise the risks to children effectively, for example the risk of sexual and criminal exploitation and other types of harm. Children do not go missing from this home. Although some children talked about running away, staff members were able to convince children to stay with them at the home.

The home has a comprehensive recruitment procedure that includes thorough vetting of staff before they start working with children. All staff have received training on how to safeguard children from a wide range of risks. However, this has not included the risk of female genital mutilation to children.

Staff understand the role of the local authority's safeguarding lead for dealing with allegations. The manager has appropriately shared concerns with this lead about an educational professional. Appropriate actions were swiftly put in place to safeguard children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home has had an excellent start. In the short period of time, leaders and managers were able to translate their vision into practice and fulfil the home's statement of purpose. This shows that the leaders and managers have excellent motivation, skills and capabilities.

Children are always at the centre of decision-making. Leaders, managers and staff are good advocates for children. They offer a robust challenge to other professionals when it is in the best interest of children.

The leaders and managers have developed a culture of inclusivity, togetherness and continued improvement. The team spirit is strong. Staff talk highly about the support that they receive from each other and from the management.

Staff members complete a thorough induction programme. This includes having access to training on a wide range of relevant topics. Frequent formal supervision meetings give staff the opportunities to review their practice and reflect on their learning and professional development.

All experienced care staff are appropriately qualified. The staff members who are new to working in a children's home have many transferable skills. These staff are working towards obtaining a qualification that is required for their current role.

The independent visitor's scrutiny contributes to the home's quality assurance processes. Improving records on staff and children's files requires further attention. Another area for improvement relates to fine-tuning the threshold for sending notifications to Ofsted.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff complete training on safeguarding from female genital mutilation and that the home's records show that this risk is considered. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.12)
- The registered person should improve the quality of record keeping so that all files are well-organised and all records provide up-to-date information. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.3)
- The registered person should review and lower the threshold for sending notifications of significant events to Ofsted. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.12)

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: 2595182

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Solace Care 7kings Ltd

Responsible individual: Umer Ahmed

Registered manager: Ciara Holmes

Inspectors

Seka Graovac, Social Care Inspector
Tolulope Sawyerr, Social Care Inspector

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