

2604898

Registered provider: Semi-independent House Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care for up to three children who have experienced neglect and/or abuse and have social or emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in September 2024.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 July 2025

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: 4 June 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/06/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/02/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

There were two children living at the home at the time of this inspection. One child has moved in, and no children have moved out since the last inspection. One child spoke to the inspector.

Children receive individualised care. They have a say in how their bedrooms are designed and decorated. One child participated in the painting and decorating of parts of the home with colours and furniture of their choice.

A child said that they can talk to staff if they are worried or upset. Positive, warm and nurturing interactions were observed between the children and staff, with lots of laughter, and staff being responsive to the individual needs of the children. The children are very comfortable in the company of the staff team and have built trusting relationships with the staff.

Children engage in activities they enjoy. Children have access to a range of activities and equipment at the home, including a trampoline, paddling pool, football goals, basketball hoop, bicycles and scooters. This has helped children who have experienced significant trauma and abrupt endings to previous placements regain a sense of childhood. Staff promote and support children to develop age-appropriate independence skills. Positive relationships with the staff have contributed to the progress that the children have made.

Staff understand the importance of education and encourage children to persevere with their education. When children have faced challenge or setbacks in education, the home proactively advocates for them. This helps children access education with support tailored to their needs. One child has completed their exams and they are awaiting their results. Staff have helped the child to attend a college open day and secure a placement. The other child has increased their school attendance from very little to full time. Their attendance has since been 100%.

Feedback from professionals is positive. One social worker said they were happy with the care provided to children and that their child had made significant progress since living at the home. An education professional said they noticed a 'big difference in [child's name], they are so happy and smiley, and their attendance and level of engagement has significantly increased since living at the home.'

Children have been helped to connect with their local community. For example, one child has been enabled to sustain attendance at a local sea cadets' group. Staff work hard to ensure that, when children see their families, this time is meaningful. This helps children maintain links with those who are important to them.

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

Staff have completed the organisation's mandatory safeguarding training. They are confident in their roles of reporting and escalating any child protection concerns. They understand the whistle-blowing policy.

Professionals are positive about the safeguarding practice at the home. They said they had no concerns with how their children are cared for and safeguarded. The child spoken to said they feel safe living at the home.

There have been no physical interventions, allegations against staff, complaints or missing-from-home incidents since the last inspection. However, the staff are able to talk through how they would respond should a child go missing from the home or make an allegation against staff.

The children's guide is child-friendly and gives children a sense of what it is like living at the home. The guide also contains information to help children understand who to speak to if they are worried or if they need support outside of the home.

Leaders and managers ensure that safe recruitment practices are followed. Staff are assessed as suitable before any appointment is confirmed. These procedures help promote the safety of the children by reducing the potential of unsuitable adults working with them.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is suitably experienced. She is working towards completing a relevant qualification. Staff are positive about the manager and the support she provides. The manager was present during this inspection.

Feedback from a range of external agencies is consistently good. This includes responses from social workers and education staff.

Leaders and managers have effective management systems. Records are of a good standard and provide information about the care provided to children. Leaders and managers complete regular audits of care practice and the operation of the home, with actions and learning identified to help address shortfalls.

Staff benefit from regular team meetings. Staff have regular supervisions and annual appraisals of their performance, which are helpful and meaningful. These provide staff with opportunities to discuss their development and any issues or concerns they have. However, managers do not always use supervisions to discuss and reflect on practice-related issues or concerns, meaning opportunities may be missed to formally address practice issues or concerns to prevent reoccurrences.

The provider has appointed an independent visitor who visits the home each month. On most occasions, the visitor attends when the children are not at the home. Leaders and managers do not challenge this. This means opportunities are missed to obtain the children's views, wishes and feelings on a more regular basis.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the recruitment, supervision and performance management of staff safeguard children and minimise potential risks to them. In particular, ensure that practice-related issues or concerns are addressed and reflected on during supervisions. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)
- The registered person should ensure that the individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as an independent person makes a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the home's care. In particular, ensure that, as part of their assessments of safeguards at the home, the regulation 44 independent visitor regularly consults with children during their visits to obtain their views, wishes and feelings. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

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: 2604898

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Semi-independent House Limited

Registered provider address: 51 Ploverly, Peterborough PE4 6HZ

Responsible individual: Amanda Charlie

Registered manager: Cherryl Pointon

Inspector

Anver Rose, 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 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 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 2025