

2626293

Registered provider: Parallel Parents Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is run by a private organisation and offers care for up to four children who may have experienced childhood instability, resulting in trauma and associated complex behaviours.

The home was re-registered in August 2021 following a change in the company ownership.

The home has a registered manager in post.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 January 2022

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: not applicable

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Three children were living at the home at the time of this inspection. Children have positive and trusting relationships with staff. Staff are invested in helping the children to have positive day-to-day experiences and support them to make progress from their starting points.

Staff get to know children prior to them living in the home. One child who moved in to the home benefited from visits to the house and met the staff and other children before they moved in. Staff took into consideration the child's views and experiences and were sensitive to their feelings of uncertainty. This was effective and they settled quickly. Children shared with the inspector that they are happy living at the home.

Overall, staff prepare children well for independent living and help them to learn new skills. Staff have helped one child to develop their cooking, cleaning and shopping skills, resulting in them being more prepared for the future. However, staff did not go far enough to test the child's ability to budget and take their own medication more independently. The child will continue to get this support in his new home, allowing him to build on the skills he has already been taught. Staff are effective in helping children to move out of the home in a planned and positive way.

Staff ensure that children's health, education and emotional needs are met. Staff help children to reflect on how they are feeling and how this makes them react and behave. This helps children to understand their emotional responses and think about how they can make different choices in the future. This has a positive impact on children's behaviour.

Children are involved in their care planning. For example, they share their views on where they would like to live now and in the future. Staff advocate for children and ensure that their views are listened to.

Staff encourage children to engage in different activities. Children enjoy going to the gym and scouts. Staff used the outdoor spaces in the local community when children were unable to attend organised activities due to the COVID-19 restrictions. This helped to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children. Throughout the pandemic, staff kept children informed about the restrictions during weekly house meetings.

The children live in a nice home. The home is being redecorated and the children are involved in deciding how the home should look. The registered manager has identified work to be completed outside of the home to reduce the risk of children gaining access to the roof. This work has not been completed quickly enough. However, the registered manager has put in place risk-reduction strategies until the work is carried out.

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

Children are safeguarded living in the home. Children share any worries or concerns they have with staff. Staff are understanding and support the children in a nurturing way. This helps children to feel safe.

Staff respond well to children who are missing from home. They understand the triggers for children leaving the home and work with other professionals to return the children safely to the home. Children discuss with staff the reasons why they went missing, and return-home interviews are regularly completed.

Staff use different strategies to help children manage their behaviour. These are detailed in risk assessments and behaviour support plans. Overall, staff are effective in de-escalating incidents without the use of restraint, which is used as a last resort. Staff try to understand the reasons for a child's behaviour, rather than focusing on the actions or incident.

The registered manager has a good oversight of incidents in the home. He provides debriefs and reflects on actions taken by staff to learn lessons and improve practice.

Staff use praise to promote positive behaviour. When sanctions are used, these are appropriate. Children can reverse the sanction if good behaviour is demonstrated. This is effective and encourages children to make better choices about their behaviour.

Staff are alert to potential risks children may face and have appropriate discussions with them. Topics covered include relationships, smoking and internet safety. This gives children the knowledge to keep themselves safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is a confident leader who supports and manages his team well. He has a good understanding of the children's needs and is child focused.

There is a stable staff team who provide stability and consistent care to children. The registered manager provides staff with regular supervision and team meetings, and they have appropriate training to meet the children's needs.

The registered manager and staff have good relationships with stakeholders. Children's social workers are kept informed about children's progress and any concerns that may arise. Two social workers gave positive feedback about the home and the care children receive. One social worker commented, 'I can't speak highly enough of the support staff have provided [to the child].'

Children share their views on a regular basis through children's meetings and have regular discussions with staff and the registered manager. Children know how to complain but have not felt that they have needed to.

The registered manager has effective monitoring tools in place. As such, he has a good understanding of the strengths and areas of development of the home.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff help each child to prepare for any moves from the home, whether they are returning home, moving to another placement or adult care, or to live independently. This includes supporting the child to develop emotional and mental resilience to cope without the home's support and, where the child is moving to live independently, practical skills, such as budgeting and personal self-care. ('Guide to the children's home regulations, including the quality standards', page 17, paragraph 3.27)
- The registered person should ensure that identified repairs to the outside of the home are completed in a timely manner to ensure that the environment supports children to keep safe. ('Guide to the children's home regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.10)

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: 2626293

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Parallel Parents Limited

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor Lansdowne House, 85 Buxton Road
Heavily, Stockport SK2 6LR

Responsible individual: Sinead Lewis

Registered manager: Scott Waldren

Inspector

Lisa O'Donovan, Social Care Inspector

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