

2629335

Registered provider: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home registered in March 2021 and is owned by a local authority.

The home provides care for up to two children with social and/or emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2023. She is experienced and suitably qualified.

Two children were living at the home at the time of the inspection.

Inspection dates: 30 and 31 October 2023

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 **requires improvement to be good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 25 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/01/2023	Full	Good
20/07/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children's day-to-day experiences are positive. Staff know the importance of building secure and trusting relationships with children to provide them with a sense of stability and belonging. Children respond positively to the consistent and nurturing care provided to them, which has led to them being happy and settled.

Children are making progress in their education from their starting points. Staff understand the barriers to children's education. Staff advocate for children to ensure that the right support is in place, which has led to improved attendance for one child.

Children are reported to be in good physical health. They are provided with nutritious meals and take part in physical activities. Children who have an identified need for therapy are accessing the right support.. Mental health professionals help the staff to better understand children's emotional and mental health needs. This enables them to provide children with the right support.

Children are consulted regularly about their home and the care they receive. Staff talk to children about a range of topics that are specific to children's individual needs. Records show that children's wishes and feelings are listened to, and action is taken.

Staff provide the children with a range of activities that reflect their individual hobbies and interests. One child likes to spend time outdoors and enjoys bike rides, while another child enjoys clothes shopping and spa nights. Children enjoy a balance of taking part in individual and group activities. This enables children to enjoy activities that reflect their own hobbies and interests. This has helped children to build positive relationships with their peers.

Family time is promoted in line with the children's plans. Staff build positive relationships with the people who are important in the children's lives. One parent said, 'I have been to the home for tea. Staff are lovely and made me feel welcome.'

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

The risks to children have reduced since they moved in to the home. Serious incidents are rare because children are happy and settled. When incidents do happen, staff use their positive relationships with children to manage them effectively. They talk to children about the difficult emotions that they are feeling, which helps children to develop better coping strategies for the future.

Children's risk assessments identify all known risks to children, and they provide clear guidance for staff. Staff understand children's individual vulnerabilities and risks and they know the steps to follow to reduce some of those risks.

Children rarely go missing from home. When one child was missing, staff responded proactively in line with the child's plan. This included searching for the child and reporting them as missing to the police. Staff ensure that children are provided with the opportunity to talk to an independent person when they return home.

There is a positive restorative approach to children when they show unwanted behaviour. Consequences to behaviour are not used at this home and there have not been any incidents where children have been held.

Allegations are taken seriously and are shared with safeguarding professionals. However, there have been three allegations made by a child that have not been shared with Ofsted. This prevents the regulator from having oversight of what is happening at the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The manager has faced some challenges during this inspection period as a result of staff changes. She has also been operating without a deputy manager.

The manager has not used the monitoring systems effectively to support her to maintain good oversight of home, in order to review the quality of care provided to children and staff development. File audits of children's and staff records have not taken place in the last five months. This prevents the manager from having full oversight of the home.

Not all staff have completed training in relation to the home's model of care as identified in the home's workforce development plan. This does not provide assurances that staff are working consistently with the ethos of the home as identified in the home's statement of purpose.

Performance discussions take place with staff in relation to their conduct and adherence to professional boundaries. However, some of the conversations have not been recorded. Safeguarding procedures are followed, but records do not show what steps were taken to investigate concerns that were raised by a child.

There have been multiple errors detected in the recording of the administration of medication to children. The shortfalls have been addressed by the manager, and staff have been provided with additional training. However, it was difficult to track the shortfalls because information about the errors is not recorded on the audit tool used.

Staff receive regular supervision that is supportive and reflective. Staff said that they feel supported by the manager. Team meetings take place regularly. They are focused on discussing the children's plans and staff development.

The manager has built positive relationships with other professionals involved in the children's care. There is evidence that the manager and staff work collaboratively with other agencies to ensure that children receive the right support. The manager advocates for children to ensure that their needs are met in line with their individual plans.

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, 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 leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff are provided with the training outlined in the home's statement of purpose. This training must enable staff to work in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos described in the statement of purpose.	8 January 2024
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there. (Regulation 40 (4)(c))	8 January 2024

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: 2629335

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council,
Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

Responsible individual: Simon Breeds

Registered manager: Rebecca Stewart

Inspector

Rachel Webster, Social Care Inspector

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