

2638730

Registered provider: Essen Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 3 children and may provide care and accommodation for children with social and/or emotional difficulties.

The privately run home registered on 30 December 2022.

At the time of inspection, there were 2 children living in the home.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 December 2025

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: 9 July 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/07/2024	Full	Good
02/08/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is spacious and welcoming. Staff create warm environments that allow nurturing discussions to take place, helping children to feel happy and safe with the staff around them.

Staff build trusted relationships with children, ensuring they feel listened to and valued about things that are important to them. Children refer to the registered manager as their fairy godmother, as they believe she is someone who helps, guides, and keeps them safe when they need support.

Staff provide children with opportunities to develop extra-curricular interests, such as boxing in the home. The home's communal areas allow children to come together to play video games and engage in natural conversations. Staff and children attend national sporting events and take trips outside the home, which the children enjoy.

Children are making good progress. The registered manager seeks services and resources to develop children's education to help them fulfil their potential. Staff support and advocate for children in times of need by attending appointments with them, which helps children feel heard.

Staff acknowledge children's achievements and reward them with things they look forward to. The home's reward system encourages children to develop autonomy, independence, and skills for the future.

Staff support children's health needs by consulting and sharing information with professionals and external support services effectively. This helps to monitor children's overall wellbeing and respond appropriately when needed. The home has an effective record-keeping system in place.

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

Staff have a clear awareness of risks for children. They have good knowledge of emerging concern plans and liaise with professionals regarding children's safety and wellbeing. Staff seek advice from the registered manager when needed.

Staff discussions and regular handover meetings enable staff to share information appropriately. Staff keep risk assessments and daily records up to date, providing current information to share effectively with children's professional networks. Staff involve children and invite them to discuss their own safety plans in meetings that concern them, promoting a child-centred approach.

One child who has since left the home continues to keep in regular contact with the registered manager, demonstrating a trusting relationship and ongoing connection

with the home. The registered manager shares important information appropriately with the local authority, helping to keep the children safe.

Staff detail children's missing from home records clearly and include a full chronology of events and correspondence. Staff seek return home interviews through the local authority. However, protocols for missing children are not always consistent, and staff do not always report directly through the local authority online hub.

The registered manager and most staff are aware of procedures to report concerns, including whistleblowing to external safeguarding professionals. However, one member of staff was not fully clear about who to escalate concerns to outside the home's management team.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager has developed plans to evaluate the home effectively and improve practice, with clear timescales in place. Prompt action is taken when issues arise, in line with policies and procedures.

Monthly staff supervision identifies individual development plans. Supervisions focus on children's progress, as well as staff wellbeing. Timescales and targets support staff in addressing and improving practice effectively.

Team meetings are held monthly, helping staff to discuss children, safety plans, and risk assessments as a team. Leaders and managers identify areas for further learning through other professionals, who support them in teaching staff about emerging risks in the community. This demonstrates an active response in equipping staff with an improved understanding of children and the world around them.

The registered manager adheres to safer recruitment practices, with good procedures in place to ensure children are cared for appropriately by staff. The registered manager and responsible individual provide comprehensive mandatory training for all staff, which is delivered through a mix of online and face-to-face methods. Specific training is sourced to meet the individual needs of children, supporting staff to develop the knowledge and skills needed to safeguard and support children effectively.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff are familiar with the home's whistleblowing procedures. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 43, paragraph 9.15)
- The registered person should take into account the views of appropriate local services and have regard to police and local authority protocols for responding to missing person incidents in the area where the home is located. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 45, paragraph 9.29)

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: 2638730

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Essen Care Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 10, Grange Mills, Weir Road, London SW12 0NE

Responsible individual: Ingrid Yarde

Registered manager: Naureen Muneef

Inspector

Andrea Ulett, Social Care Inspector

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