

2644474

Registered provider: Gracebridge Care

Assurance 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 may have social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since October 2023.

Inspection date: 9 January 2024

Date of last inspection: 31 August 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

At the time of this inspection, two children were living in the home. The two children speak positively about living in the home and named members of staff they have positive relationships with. Both children spoke enthusiastically about their holiday abroad in the summer. The children proudly showed the inspectors photo albums of the fond memories and fun experiences they had during their trip.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out of the home. This was an unplanned move, but despite this the manager and staff ensured that the child had a positive move from the home.

Since the last inspection, staff have spent time with children educating them on the impact of bullying. The children participated in a four-week project, which supported them to develop skills in dealing with conflict and effective communication. This has helped promote more positive peer relationships and contributed to a safer living environment.

Staff respond quickly when children go missing from the home. They search for children and work with the local police until children are found. When children return to the home, staff spend time with them, giving them the opportunity to share any worries they have and to discuss their reasons for going missing. Staff use their professional curiosity to understand children's risks, so that the right support is put into place to minimise further incidents of children going missing from home.

Staff actively employ a nurturing approach in responding to self-harm incidents. They seek and provide medical advice as needed. Through conversations and activities, staff help children understand their thoughts and feelings. Additionally, children are referred to specialist health professionals to help them manage their anxieties, and strategies are implemented to minimise the occurrence of further incidents.

Physical restraint is only used where necessary and as a last resort. Reports are detailed and recorded in line with regulation. However, on one occasion, staff did not record the correct date of the restraint.

Since the last inspection, staff have completed a wide range of training, including anti-bullying, medication and restraint. All staff are up to date with their training. Consequently, staff have the knowledge and skills to improve the quality of care for the children.

The manager does not always use monitoring systems to improve the quality of care in the home. For example, she does not consistently action all the recommendations

from the independent visitor's report. This is a missed opportunity to understand and take action to address any areas of development.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/09/2022	Full	Good

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, The 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 their full potential; and promotes their welfare In particular, the standard in paragraph(1) requires the registered person to — use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h)) The registered person must make the best use of information from independent and internal monitoring to ensure continuous improvement to the quality of care provided to children.	9 February 2024

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2644474

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Gracebridge Care

Registered provider address: Rear Of Arden Lodge, 946 Warwick Road, Acocks Green Birmingham B27 6QG

Responsible individual: Richard Perry

Registered manager: Donna Bradley

Inspectors

Jas Nahar, Social Care Inspector
Nateisha Cardoza-Evans, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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