

2667615

Registered provider: Mercia Children Services Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and operated. It provides care for up to four children who may be experiencing social and emotional difficulties. The provider states in its statement of purpose that care is provided for children aged from eight to 17 years old.

A manager is in post. She is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 29 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 13 December 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector 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.

The care of children

Children are well supported, and the care that they receive is personalised and has a positive impact on their lives. Staff form positive and nurturing relationships with the children that they care for. Children said that they like living here, and they feel that the staff care about them.

Staff understand the children's individual needs and tailor care appropriately. Staff work with the child, their family and other professionals to develop a care plan that addresses the child's specific needs, interests and goals. As a result, children feel valued and listened to.

Children are making measurable progress, and their starting point is clearly recorded. This will allow the staff to adapt their care to areas in which the children need the most support.

All children are now in education and are taking positive steps towards their future. The manager and staff recognise different learning styles and have advocated on behalf of children during planning meetings. This means that children receive education that is appropriate to their identified needs.

Children do not yet have clear transition plans to help prepare them for when they move on. This requirement will be restated.

The safety of children

Strategies and plans are in place to reduce and manage risk. Risks to one child have reduced significantly due to a consistent staff approach.

Staff demonstrate their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. Regular training in safeguarding children helps staff to keep their practice up to date. The manager has challenged other professionals when services or a response have been slow or missing.

The home is warm and welcoming, and previous health and safety concerns have been fully addressed.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The manager is in the process of registering with Ofsted and holds an appropriate leadership and management qualification.

The manager has ensured that children's plans and records are up to date and reflect their individual needs. The child's voice is captured, and records include educational goals, therapeutic interventions and other relevant information to support the child's overall well-being.

The manager has updated the statement of purpose to ensure that inclusive language is used and that it includes the frequency of staff supervision. Supervision sessions are carried out in the time frames stated, and they are reflective and have good content.

Effective monitoring and oversight have now been implemented by the manager. She has a good understanding of the strengths of the home and is focused on improving the quality of care. Action taken to address the requirements and recommendations from the previous inspection is testament to this. The manager has aspirations for the children and staff.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/12/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be 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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)) In particular, transitions for children moving out of the home should be carefully planned in plenty of time to fully prepare the child.	28 May 2023

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2667615

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Mercia Children Services Limited

Registered provider address: Bramhall House, 14 Ack Lane East, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2BY

Responsible individual: Michael Lloyd

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sally Mitchell, Social Care Inspector

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