

2673338

Registered provider: Theracare Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company. It currently provides care and accommodation for up to two children irrespective of gender.

The manager was registered with Ofsted on 6 April 2022.

Inspection dates: 27 and 28 July 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	inadequate
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	inadequate
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	inadequate
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There are serious and widespread failures that mean children are not protected and the care and experiences of children are poor.

Date of last inspection: not applicable

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
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Not previously inspected		
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Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: inadequate

There was one child residing in this home at the time of the inspection who was spoken to as part of this visit. The child has positive relationships with managers and staff. As a result, the child feels cared for and enjoys living in this home. Widespread failures found in the home mean that children have not had positive experiences and that they have not been protected from harm.

Necessary, up-to-date documentation such as local authority plans and health assessments were not available for the child living in the home. Key information that is available has not been read or understood. This has resulted in a lack of recognition and understanding of the child's significant needs, including assessed disabilities and vulnerabilities. This means that children's needs are not being met. Furthermore, failure to recognise and identify the information and documentation required has led to a lack of escalation to the local authority and other relevant professionals.

Children's individual health and educational needs are not recognised or understood. Information held about the child living in the home clearly states the child has recognised learning needs. Leaders, managers and staff were not aware of this. Staff could not demonstrate that they understand what this means for the child, that they understand learning disabilities or what additional support the child may need because of this.

A lack of information gathering in respect of the child's health, such as vaccination history, previous health needs and the outcomes of previous medical assessments, means that health plans do not sufficiently address or identify children's physical and emotional needs.

Staff are ill-prepared to manage the behaviours exhibited by children moving into the home because of a lack of information gathered about the children prior to moving into the home. This necessitated an emergency placement move for one child. As a result, one child had a negative experience of moving out of the home and, subsequently, moved to a bed and breakfast two days after moving in. This does not represent careful, considered placement planning or assessment for children.

Positively, the work completed with children is of a good quality. This demonstrates that staff hold meaningful discussions with children about issues that affect them.

Additionally, the child living in the home is provided with support to spend regular, structured time with family members. The child benefits from this quality time and routine.

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

Pre-placement planning and assessment has not sought to understand children's histories or risks. Known risks and vulnerabilities presented by children, such as sexually harmful behaviour, violence and aggression, and disabilities, were not considered when placing children together. This has led to poor and unsafe matching of children, and has resulted in emotional harm to one child and the immediate placement breakdown of another.

Obvious and immediate risks presented by the location of the home are not adequately assessed. For example, the road with a 60 mph speed limit directly accessible to children from the property has not been considered or recognised as a risk to children. As such, one child has been allowed to regularly cycle on this road both with staff and alone, without any safety equipment or attempted intervention. This leaves children at increased risk of serious accident and/or injury.

Children's individual risk assessments do not include all known and significant risks, including those arising from alleged sexually harmful behaviour. Furthermore, the child living in the home has recently been found to be in possession of cannabis. Both these concerns were not included within the child's risks assessment. Failure to identify and assess these risks hinders staff's ability to respond and mitigate risk and does not provide children with effective help and protection.

Staff working with children do not have the necessary experience, training or qualifications in areas related to children's risk-taking behaviours. This includes, but is not limited to, sexually harmful behaviour, substance misuse, online safety, and missing-from-home behaviours.

Positively, incidents of missing from home for this child have significantly reduced since living in this home, as has the child's substance misuse. This is because the child is benefiting from routine, activities and the one-to-one attention provided at this home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: inadequate

Monitoring and review in the home is poor. The inspector found shortfalls across several areas in the home including children's risk assessments, care planning, staff training and general record-keeping. These shortfalls have not been identified prior to the inspection. This does not demonstrate that monitoring and review processes in the home are sufficient to identify and rectify weakness.

The inspector was unable to find evidence that consequences are discussed with children, evaluated, or considered by the manager for effectiveness and appropriateness. This has led to money being taken from the child's weekly earnings to contribute to the cost of fixing a wardrobe door. This door was not replaced or repaired at the time of the inspection several weeks later. This does not demonstrate

effective monitoring and review, or effective behaviour management that supports children to understand and improve their behaviours.

The manager has not notified Ofsted of all significant and serious incidents in the home. This has prevented external monitoring and review required by regulation. A requirement has been made to address this.

Leaders and managers have accepted the shortfalls found at this inspection and were working to rectify them at the time of the inspection.

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
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans; seek to secure the input and services required to meet each child's needs; if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans; and seek to develop and maintain effective professional relationships with such persons, bodies or organisations as the registered person considers appropriate having regard to the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation. (Regulation 5 (a)(b)(c)(d))	11 September 2022
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans;	11 September 2022

understand the child's health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child's health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding; understand and develop skills to promote the child's well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iv))	
*The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(b))	11 September 2022
*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—	11 September 2022

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; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; 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)(c)(f)(h))	
*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; that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority; that each child's relevant plans are followed; that staff help each child to access and contribute to the records kept by the registered person in relation to the child. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(ii)(iii)(c)(f))	11 September 2022

The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (3)(a)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)) In particular, review consequences to ensure that those given are proportionate, effective and in line with the children's needs and level of understanding.	11 September 2022
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))	11 September 2022
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;	11 September 2022

an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child — is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))	
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* These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: 2673338

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Theracare Homes Limited

Registered provider address: 10 Ambassador Place, Stockport Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8DB

Responsible individual: Simon Haddrell

Registered manager: Luke Tempest

Inspector

Natalie Bennett, Social Care Inspector

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