

2675155

Registered provider: Seva Childcare Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care for up to four children with learning disabilities.

The home registered with Ofsted in July 2022. The home has not had a registered manager since May 2023.

There were four children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

Inspection dates: 23 and 24 July 2024

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: 5 December 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/12/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/02/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are comfortable and relaxed, and staff are warm and attentive towards them.

Leaders and managers strongly advocate on behalf of children to ensure that their educational needs are met. Staff also support children in developing their independence and life skills in line with their needs and abilities.

Children's health needs are met. Staff ensure that children attend medical appointments and have access to specialist advice. This helps children to improve their well-being. Staff make sure that children take their prescribed medication. However, when medication audits are carried out, the records are not always clear about the outcome of the findings.

Staff spend time with children, giving them opportunities to express their feelings and share their views. Staff carry out direct work with the children. Some of this work is pre-planned to address specific issues, and some is unplanned. In all cases, this direct work is well recorded. Whenever possible, staff act and try to deliver according to children's wishes.

Staff support and arrange for children to spend quality time with their families when it is safe for them to do so. This helps children to maintain important relationships with the people who are special to them.

Children are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities in the home and the community. These include participating in sports, social and cultural activities and going on short holidays. Staff capture these moments by taking photos and videos that are then added to the children's life-story work.

The home is comfortable and decorated to a good standard. Children's bedrooms are personalised in line with their choices and likes. There are photos of the children displayed throughout the home. This all adds to the homely atmosphere. A garden house is being built to accommodate the home's office, and the plan is to turn the office into a sensory room.

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

The manager and staff demonstrate a good understanding of the needs and vulnerabilities of the children in their care. The children's risk assessments and behaviour support plans are reviewed regularly. These records include all known risks and set out specific actions that staff should take to respond to presenting risks. The manager ensures that there is good-quality joint safeguarding work with children's social workers, parents and other members of children's networks.

Behaviour management in the home is good. There are good boundaries and routines in place. There has been no use of physical intervention in the home since the last inspection. Instead, staff try to identify children's triggers and de-escalate any difficult situations at the earliest stage. Incidents at the home are relatively low. When serious incidents happen, the manager ensures that information is shared promptly with relevant professionals and that actions are taken to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

There have been no incidents of children going missing from the home since the last inspection. Leaders have installed sensors on the doors to strengthen safeguarding measures in the home. However, there are varying views among staff about how and when they should be used. Furthermore, none of the placing local authorities have given their consent for this type of monitoring.

Safeguarding issues are regularly discussed with staff in supervision, using case examples. Staff have a good understanding of whistle-blowing and the procedures to follow if allegations are made against other staff. This helps to ensure that children's safety is prioritised.

Safer recruitment and employment practices are followed to ensure that only suitable staff are employed.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has been in post since March 2024. She has applied to Ofsted to be registered. The manager is supported by a deputy manager and seniors in the team. They create a culture where staff strive to make a positive difference to children's lives. There is a stable staff team in place, providing children with stability and a consistent level of care.

Staff at the home feel well supported by their colleagues and the manager. Team meetings, individual supervision and annual appraisals provide staff with opportunities to reflect on their practice and share their views. Staff meetings are also used as learning and development opportunities. Staff have access to regular training that is relevant to the needs of the children in their care.

Leaders and managers work well with children's professional networks. Feedback from external professionals and a parent regarding the quality of care provided and communication from staff is positive.

Management monitoring systems are effective. Information is easily accessible, and children's files reflect their everyday lives well. Leaders use learning from practice and feedback to improve the experiences and care of children. For example, serious incidents are analysed to support team learning.

The home's statement of purpose has been updated. However, it does not contain all the information required.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home's statement of purpose provides all information required by regulation 16 and schedule 1. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)
- The registered person should ensure that any monitoring equipment has a written policy describing how this will support the safeguarding of the children so all staff can have a shared understanding of its use. Furthermore, the registered person should ensure that appropriate consent for its use is obtained in writing from the relevant persons. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.16)
- The registered person should ensure that the outcomes of medication audits completed as part of their oversight of the welfare of the children in their care are recorded clearly. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.23)

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: 2675155

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Seva Childcare Ltd

Registered provider address: 71-75 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9JQ

Responsible individual: Mahesh Kotecha

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Aneta Wasilewska, Social Care Inspector

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