

2677411

Registered provider: Lasting Threads Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and is registered to provide care for up to three children who experience emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or learning difficulties. Three children were living at the home at the time of this inspection.

The home is overseen by a qualified manager who has been registered with Ofsted since the home opened in November 2022.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 April 2023

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: not applicable

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Not previously inspected

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

All children are making progress from their individual starting points. Children receive well-planned and individualised care from a nurturing and committed staff team. It was clear from observations that staff know the children well and carefully manage children's individual daily routines.

Staff speak to children about their care needs. As a result, children are listened to, and this helps staff provide children with individualised daily care. One child said, 'It's like living in a normal home but better. They care and talk to me about things.'

Staff support children's individual educational needs. Staff are ambitious for children and advocate on their behalf to ensure that they have an education placement. One child had been out of education for a significant period. The manager worked with education professionals to address this and the child is now attending school on a regular basis, where she is making progress.

Staff promote children's individual health needs. Children are supported to attend the necessary health appointments. One child has been supported to significantly improve their health. A professional said, 'They have been amazing, they invited me in straight away to provide extensive training to staff, to support [name of child]'s health needs. It is the first time I haven't worried about [name of child]. I am more than happy with the care they are being provided with. Their health has improved as a result.'

Children enjoy a range of activities in line with their interests. This helps children to build memories and a sense of belonging. One child said, 'The activities are the best I've ever done.'

The home environment is warm and welcoming. Children's bedrooms are decorated and personalised to reflect their personalities. However, locks on some doors need to be removed, to maintain a homely feeling.

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

Children live in a home where they feel safe. Children told the inspector that they feel safe in the home and that they have staff to talk to about any worries or concerns that they may have. Observations throughout the inspection demonstrate that children are comfortable with staff.

Children's safety and well-being are at the centre of staff practice. Staff spoken to demonstrate an understanding of children's individual needs and vulnerabilities. Staff have regular contact with children's social workers and relevant professionals. This contributes to an all-round and effective safeguarding approach.

Children have detailed and specific behaviour management plans and risk assessments. These plans provide staff with clear strategies to follow in practice.

Staff use effective de-escalation techniques to manage incidents. This means that physical intervention is rare and is used only as a last resort. The manager has evaluated incidents and implemented further training in response to an incident involving poor practice. Children and staff are spoken to following incidents. However, not all records have been signed.

The manager and staff support children to understand and manage their behaviour, risks and vulnerability. This is done in a way that supports children to make age-appropriate choices. Consequently, children's risks have reduced. One social worker said, 'The manager has gone above and beyond to make sure [name of child] was safe online. They have been absolutely brilliant, recognising that [name of child] needs to have some access to the internet but in a safe way. They are in a much better place as a result.'

Children are provided with clear and consistent boundaries. Positive behaviour is promoted and children receive a weekly certificate and reward for their achievements. As a result, staff rarely need to use consequences.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is run effectively by an enthusiastic, qualified and experienced registered manager who knows the children well. The registered manager has created a homely and nurturing home environment. One child said, 'This is my second family. They don't let me down.'

Staff spoken to say that the manager is supportive and they describe good morale within the staff team.

Staff receive training that is relevant to children's individual needs. Urgent action was taken to ensure that staff had the appropriate skills to meet the health needs of a child who moved into the home on an emergency basis.

Staff receive a robust induction programme, including regular reflective supervision. Regular team meetings also support the development of the team. However, the registered manager needs to ensure that children's records consistently include all accurate information and are signed by staff.

The manager works proactively with professionals to improve the outcomes for children. Communication is a key strength. Families, health professionals and local authorities are kept updated about the progress children are making. The manager is a strong advocate for children and ensures that children's necessary plans are in place.

Children are involved in the recruitment process. This helps children to feel valued and listened to.

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
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 signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(c)) This relates to making sure that all case records are signed and that documentation is in place for each child.	19 July 2023

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that, just as in a family home, children are able to access all shared areas of their home unless there are specific reasons why this would not meet a child's needs. Limits on privacy and access may only be put in place to safeguard each child in the home. This relates to locks on bathroom doors and the playroom being removed. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.10)

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: 2677411

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lasting Threads Care Limited

Registered provider address: Lasting Threads Care Limited, 49a Hemdean Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7SS

Responsible individual: Amie Anders

Registered manager: Kelly Doughty

Inspector

Kayleigh Treanor, Social Care Inspector

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