

2685997

Registered provider: Evolve Residential Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2022.

Inspection dates: 19 and 20 June 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: 3 May 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/05/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is clean and well decorated. It has a homely, lived-in atmosphere with the children's photos and artwork displayed on the walls. The children have their own rooms with personalised items. This helps the children to feel settled and secure in their home.

Children have established trusting relationships with staff at the home. Staff interact positively with the children and listen to their views through talking and while engaging in activities. Staff start building relationships with children before they come to live in the home. This helps children to feel more at ease when coming to a new environment with new people.

Staff support children to attend school regularly. Education professionals say children are making good progress. Staff attend all meetings, which helps to promote good communication between the staff and education professionals. This helps staff to better support the children with their education.

Children are registered with the appropriate services and have attended their routine appointments. When children need specialist help and support, staff ensure that referrals are made to the relevant professionals. This helps to ensure that children get the support that they need.

Staff support children to take part in a range of activities and days out. Children are encouraged to try new things and attend clubs. This helps children to learn new skills, develop their social skills and explore their talents and interests. This gives children a sense of achievement and exposes them to new experiences.

Staff understand that it is important for children to spend time with their family and friends. They help the children to maintain important relationships, making a difference to children and their families. Family time is managed sensitively and safely to ensure that this is a positive experience. One family member said that staff have a positive impact and support them to see their child.

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

Staff are clear about their responsibilities in safeguarding children. The children's risk assessments and care plans provide a clear overview of children's vulnerabilities and needs. This helps to ensure that children are kept as safe as possible and protected from harm.

Staff help the children to recognise their feelings and learn ways of expressing themselves appropriately. Sometimes children become angry or upset and are held by staff to keep them safe. Staff are trained to ensure that they know how to do this

safely and effectively. Incidents are recorded and have management oversight. This helps to ensure that practice is scrutinised to safeguard children.

Staff support children when they make an allegation or complaint. The manager investigates all incidents, and children are provided with feedback. Staff are knowledgeable about the procedure to follow if a child makes an allegation or disclosure. This helps to ensure that staff can prioritise the safety and well-being of children appropriately.

Children who have now moved on from the home were vulnerable to going missing from home. On one occasion, a child travelled a significant distance from the home. The child spoke with staff to request support in returning home. Staff did not prioritise the needs or welfare of the child on this occasion and did not go to collect them. This resulted in the child being brought back home via two different police authorities. This incident falls short of the usual good staff practice.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager of the home is suitably qualified and experienced. She is enthusiastic about providing the best care to children and speaks positively about each of them. This is mirrored by the staff team. The manager and staff share high aspirations for what the children can achieve.

The manager has overseen a period of instability, with a number of changes to the staff team. The children have continued to be supported by a core team of staff that has provided them with stable care. The manager has been careful to ensure that any agency staff have the necessary skills, and she has consistently used the same staff. This has minimised any impact on the children.

The manager completes a thorough assessment when children come to live in the home. This is to ensure that the staff have the necessary skills and experience to meet the needs of the child. One child moved on from the home quickly after moving in. This was because the manager was not provided with important information about the child and the home was unable to meet their emerging needs. The manager took decisive action to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in the home.

Staff say that they feel well supported by leaders and managers. Regular supervision sessions and staff appraisals take place. Staff are provided with opportunities to reflect on practice and their effectiveness in making a difference to children. This helps the manager to monitor the progress and development needs of the staff team.

The manager ensures that staff have training and support to enable them to develop the skills and knowledge needed to offer effective care to children. Staff complete mandatory training and specific training related to the individual needs of children.

New staff are well supported with an induction programme and probationary period. This helps them to develop their practice to provide safe care to children.

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 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; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(vi))	24 June 2024

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: 2685997

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Evolve Residential Limited

Registered provider address: 73 Duke Street, Darlington, Durham DL3 7SD

Responsible individual: Yvonne Bartlett

Registered manager: Elizabeth Temperley

Inspectors

Kerry Chater, Social Care Inspector

Deb Duffy, Regulatory Inspection Manager

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