

# 2691652

Registered provider: Purple Ash Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home is privately run and provides care for up to three children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 2 May 2024.

At the time of this inspection, two children were living at the home. Both children moved into the home in the last six months. Another child has left the home since the last inspection as part of a planned transition.

### Inspection dates: 7 and 8 May 2024

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account | <b>good</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

|                                                             |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| How well children and young people are helped and protected | good |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|

|                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------------|------|
| The effectiveness of leaders and managers | good |
|-------------------------------------------|------|

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 7 November 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            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 07/11/2023      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 15/08/2023      | Full            | Inadequate                      |
| 16/05/2023      | Full            | Inadequate                      |
| 17/01/2023      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Since the last inspection, significant changes have been made by the provider and an experienced manager has been appointed. One child moved on from the home in a planned transition. Another child has experienced stability following a series of placement changes. This is an achievement.

The manager understands the impact of drift and delay in care planning for children. The manager has raised a formal complaint on behalf of a child, which has led to a positive outcome and resolution.

Children receive positive and nurturing care. Despite the relatively short length of time the children have lived at the home, staff have promoted strong and stable relationships with them. A child said, 'I give staff 9.5 out of 10. I have good relationships with staff.'

Children are engaging in education. They are making good progress from their starting points. The manager is proactive in advocating for children when there are barriers to learning. For one child, this has led to a significant improvement in their attendance and engagement in education. Children now speak about the positives of being in education and are aspirational for their future. Staff understand the importance of education for children, and, when necessary, they ensure that there is effective escalation with other agencies.

Children are supported to take part in a variety of enjoyable activities. This supports them to develop positive relationships with staff and enhances their life skills. One child is an avid football supporter. Staff have been proactive and arranged a trip for him to attend his favourite football team's ground. The child was delighted with this experience.

Staff are in the process of developing the home environment. It needs some further attention to support the home to be warm and welcoming. The manager has identified this, and this work is in progress. There had been some remedial actions that staff ensured there was a prompt maintenance response to.

Children have daily opportunities to share their views, wishes and feelings, for example during key-work sessions and children's meetings. Children are listened to and responded to by staff.

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

Children are supported to be safe. Staff use their knowledge and experience to recognise risk and take immediate action to reduce this. There is a strong multi-agency safeguarding response to any incidents of concern. Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures. Staff know what action to take if they have any concerns about a child.

Positive and nurturing relationships, alongside clear expectations, help children to reduce behaviours that challenge. Staff know to use their skills and positive relationships to support children to de-escalate behaviours. As a result, the use of physical interventions has reduced. When the use of physical interventions has been necessary, it has been as a last resort to keep children safe. There are appropriate debriefs with children and a good level of management oversight. Key agencies are notified.

There is a well-coordinated approach from staff and external professionals when children go missing. Staff make every effort to locate children quickly and ensure that all relevant processes are followed. Safeguarding agencies are notified, and risk assessments are reviewed and shared with staff to try and prevent further incidents of children going missing from the home.

Staff recruitment is safe. Staff who are working at the home undergo appropriate vetting and are suitable to work at the home.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The manager is experienced and qualified. She has introduced several systems and processes to drive improvements in the home. She has worked closely with the responsible individual to progress a clear action plan following the last inspection.

The manager demonstrates good oversight of the home. There are management monitoring processes in place to ensure that children's needs are well met and understood. This has been supported by the introduction of a new online recording and management monitoring system.

Stakeholder feedback is positive. A social worker said, 'Staff have been brilliant with him. they are persistent and because of this, [name of child] feels safe and secure.'

Managers take appropriate action to address any shortfalls in staff practice. This includes using the organisation's performance management processes when necessary. The manager does not hesitate in taking appropriate action to manage and improve staff performance.

The manager and deputy manager know the children well. There is a clear commitment to achieving good outcomes for children in their care. This is demonstrated through their tenacity in advocating for children. Where redress is required with partner agencies, children should be supported to access independent advocacy.

Staff receive regular support from the manager via supervision sessions and team meetings. The manager is in the process of implementing development plans for staff. She coaches staff and is a good role model. The provider has a clear vision to upskill and develop the workforce.

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

### **Recommendations**

- The registered person should ensure that the home is a nurturing and supportive environment that meets children's needs. In most cases, children's homes are homely, domestic environments. The home must comply with relevant health and safety legislations, such as alarms and food hygiene. However, in doing so, the home should seek as far as possible to maintain a domestic rather than 'institutional' impression. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- Independent advocates can support both the child and the home to seek redress of issues which affect them, such as lack of contact with their social worker, contact with family and leaving care grants, in addition to issues about their care in the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 23, paragraph 4.17)

### **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:** 2691652

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Purple Ash Limited

**Registered provider address:** West Midlands House, Gipsy Lane WV13 2HA

**Responsible individual:** Thomas Haire

**Registered manager:** Holly Robertson

## Inspector

Bev Allison, Social Care Inspector

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