

2732421

Registered provider: Continuum Support

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately operated and provides care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home and the manager registered with Ofsted in October 2024.

One child was living at the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 March 2025

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: 12 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/03/2024	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, one child has moved on from the home and another has moved in. The manager ensures that careful and thoughtful planning takes place, when children move on or into the home. Children are welcomed sensitively, and staff work hard to support positive endings. This helps to ease any anxieties children may have and provides them with a positive experience.

Staff are warm, nurturing and caring towards children. They do all they can to ensure that children are provided with clear, consistent boundaries and they help children to develop strategies to manage any difficult feelings they may have. As a result of this, one child successfully returned home to live with family and continues to make progress. The child's parent said, '[Name of child] made significant progress living at the home, so much so, he was able to return home to me, I cannot thank them enough'.

Staff carry out regular direct work with the child that is purposeful and well planned. This supports the child's learning and understanding in areas that are relevant to their individual needs, such as making healthy choices and safe behaviours. As a result of this work, staff have been able to support the child to overcome anxieties around dental appointments and they attend their first appointment in over four years.

Staff promote education. When there are barriers to education, staff work closely with the child and school to overcome these. When the child does not attend school, staff support educational activity throughout the day and advocate for a return to full time education as soon as possible.

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

Risks are well managed and understood by staff. The manager ensures that risk assessments are regularly reviewed and that they contain clear steps for staff to follow to help keep children safe. However, the child's missing from home risk assessment does not fully consider the action staff should take during the nighttime if the child is missing from the home. The manager did address this during the inspection; however, this is yet to be embedded into staff practice.

Staff sometimes use physical intervention to keep children safe. This is done as a last resort; staff are also trained in the use of physical intervention. Records of interventions are detailed and contain the relevant information; they are also reviewed by the manager. However, on some occasions, the manager's review lacks reflection and professional curiosity. As a result of this, concerns regarding staff practice are not addressed appropriately and learning opportunities are missed.

The child is supported to share their feelings by staff. The child talked about feeling safe and protected by the staff who care for them. They knew how to complain and were able to identify staff they could talk to if ever they had any concerns.

Positive behaviour is consistently promoted in the home. Staff use a reward system to encourage positive behaviour and use consequences to manage unwanted behaviours. The manager consistently reviews the measures used, for their effectiveness and ensures that the child is spoken to about the measure used.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is dedicated and leads by example, she knows the child well and is ambitious for them. She is a positive role model and has high expectations for the staff team and their development. The manager has a good understanding of the home's strengths and areas for development. As a result of this, the staff team are developing in their roles.

The home experienced some staffing issues following the last inspection and there was some dependency on agency use, however, this has since improved. The home is now properly staffed and resourced to meet the needs of the child. The child receives stable, consistent care from adults who know them well.

The manager has developed positive working relationships with professionals, parents, and family members. The manager understands the importance of effective partnership working, and how this contributes towards children's positive experiences. One social worker commented, 'The level of communication is really good, the manager is really proactive and ensures I am regularly updated.'

The manager ensures that all staff are provided with opportunities to complete training. Staff complete a combination of mandatory, additional and bespoke training; this is in line with children's individual needs.

Staff receive regular supervision. These are reflective, they provide staff with opportunities to discuss practice, the individual needs of the children and focus on development. Staff find the supervisions useful and supportive. One staff member commented, 'The manager is fantastic, she is really supportive and is always available, I have learned so much from her since she came into post.'

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; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; 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)(iii)(v)(vii)(b)) In particular, the registered provider must ensure that the child's missing from home risk assessment considers all possible scenarios for when a child is missing from home, specifically what action staff must take during the nighttime when a child is missing and that this is clearly recorded in records. Additionally, the registered provider must ensure that when records of significant incidents are reviewed, they are done so reflectively and are subjected to professional curiosity. Specifically, when concerns are raised regarding staff practice, these are responded to and shared with the relevant safeguarding partners.	20 April 2025

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: 2732421

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Continuum Support

Registered provider address: Sinclair Accounting Co Ltd, 300 St. Marys Road,
Garston, Liverpool L19 0NQ

Responsible individual: Peter Mahon

Registered manager: Laura Brady

Inspector

Kimmy Feeley, Social Care Inspector

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