

2733923

Registered provider: Stoney Knolls Children's Home Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care for up to three children of the same gender. The children may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home.

There has been no registered manager since the 7 May 2024.

Inspection dates: 11 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	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 10 October 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
10/10/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

One child has left the home and three children have been admitted since the last inspection.

Staff form positive and supportive relationships with children. Children feel able to approach staff and ask for their help. Children say they feel safe and like living in the home.

Children who are new to the home are welcomed sensitively. The planning and matching process for new children has improved since the last inspection. The needs of the other children living in the home were considered before any new children moved in.

One child was moved from the home in an unplanned way following police intervention. It was not clear from reviewing the incident what attempts were made by staff to de-escalate the situation. Staff were struggling to manage this child's behaviour, however staff continued to support the child outside of the home ensuring the child's wellbeing was promoted.

Children are supported to actively participate in day-to-day decisions about their lives. Children's meetings take place regularly in the home. The children share their views on activities and menu choices, and this is followed up by the staff team. Children are encouraged to participate in activities in the home and the community.

The language used in the children's records is not child centred. It lacks emotional warmth and fails to fully capture the child's journey. Records are not written in a manner that will provide the child with all the required information that reflects their progress while living in the home.

Children are supported to spend time with important people in their lives. This promotes their sense of identity and belonging.

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

Children are protected from harm. Staff understand the risks that using the internet may pose for the children in their care. They are working with other professionals to support children to learn how to keep themselves safe online.

Safer recruitment processes are followed, and the appropriate checks are made prior to staff starting work with children. There is a clear process in place.

Managers have not ensured that children's risk assessments are reflective of the risks identified for them. This means the plans in place to reduce the risk of harm will not be

as effective. Risks for one child in respect of missing from home and risk of exploitation were not fully understood by the staff looking after them.

There is evidence that staff understand basic missing from home procedures however one child who was at risk of missing from home did not have a clear plan of urgent action in place that was specific to their individual needs.

There have been no physical interventions since the last inspection. Staff are using alternative strategies to manage children's behaviour.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The home does not have a registered manager in place. The deputy manager is acting up to ensure consistency in the home. There has been reflection on a period of difficulty from leaders and managers. Lessons learnt have been identified and there is a plan in place moving forward to make improvements.

The staff team is stable and well established. The home is properly staffed and there are no vacancies. This increases the consistency of care provided to the children.

Staff feel supported by the leadership team. Staff state moral is high, and they feel appreciated and valued.

Management monitoring systems are not yet robust. There is a lack of appropriate oversight following incidents, these are not clearly recorded and debriefs with staff or young people are not evident on the files. This leaves the leadership team without all the necessary information to fully assess the children's quality of care.

Leaders and managers have not ensured that there is effective oversight by an external and independent visitor.

Staff receive regular professional supervision. The quality and frequency of supervision has improved since the last inspection. However, this could be improved by more of a focus on children within supervision.

At this inspection three requirements have been made. One requirement has not been met from a previous inspection and is therefore reinstated.

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 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; (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)) This specifically relates to staff understanding the risks for the children and ensuring their assessments reflect those risks.	12 August 2024
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f)(h))	12 August 2024

This specifically relates to the manager ensuring that accurate records are maintained. It also relates to the manager implementing and embedding effective monitoring and review systems.	
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires; and to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. A visit by the independent person to the home may be unannounced. The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether— children are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being. The independent person's report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5)) This relates to ensuring that the independent visitor's reports are timely and effective in driving improvement.	12 August 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the capacity and competence of staff to build constructive, warm relationships with children that actively promote positive behaviour, provides the foundations for managing any negative behaviour. Staff should have the skills to respond to each child's individual behaviour. Where necessary they should manage conflict, maintain constructive dialogues and react appropriately if challenged by a child in their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 39, paragraph 8.14)

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: 2733923

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stoney Knolls Children's Home Ltd

Responsible individual: Susan Sabine

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Simon Hunter, social care inspector

Lauren Barwell, social care inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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