

2737970

Registered provider: Tamal Expert Assessors

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 one child who experiences social and emotional difficulties.

The home and the manager registered with Ofsted in November 2023.

Ofsted carried out an assurance inspection on 15 August 2024 and found no serious and widespread concerns. This is the home's first full inspection.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 February 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: not applicable

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

This home is well presented and has a family-like atmosphere. When the child moved in, they were warmly welcomed. The child's bedroom is well decorated. This has helped them to develop a sense of belonging and settle in well.

The child likes the staff and the manager at the home. They can express their thoughts and feel listened to. The child has built strong relationships with the staff and registered manager, whose enthusiasm for caring for children and ensuring good outcomes disseminates throughout the team.

The child has made good progress since living at the home. Staff understand the child's complex needs as they are experienced and have comprehensive care plans that enable them to understand children's histories. They are attuned to the child's needs and provide good care and support.

Together, staff and the child talk proudly about the child's achievements, which includes spending more time going out in public. With encouragement from staff, the child now engages in a wider range of activities, which is something that has been a challenge for them previously. These activities have helped the child to develop social skills and become more confident.

Before coming to the home, the child had a lengthy period of not attending school. Staff have high aspirations for the child to achieve and have sensitively explored the barriers to their learning. The registered manager works closely with teachers and the virtual school to ensure that the child's educational needs are met. They have reintroduced the child to education at an appropriate pace. As a result, the child is now engaging in virtual education and is discovering a love for learning.

Staff prioritise the child's health needs and encourage them to attend all health appointments. They listen to the child's views about the effects of medication and have advocated for regular medication reviews. As a result of the registered manager's intervention, medication has reduced, and health outcomes have improved.

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

Staff provide effective support that improves the child's understanding of how to stay safe and to make positive choices that do not place them at risk. They use incentives and talk regularly in key-work sessions, which the child engages well in. Staff work with partner agencies to ensure that the child receives appropriate support. Since moving to the home, incidents of missing from care and concerns around exploitation have significantly reduced.

Staff know about the child's vulnerabilities, and they supervise and safeguard the child effectively. Safety plans are detailed. Risks are identified, and the plans include clear strategies for support. Staff have a good understanding of the child. They give a compassionate and effective response when they show signs of distress. The child is becoming increasingly stable living at the home, incidents of concern and deprivation of liberty order safeguards are reducing. Staff motivate and encourage the child to continue with this progress.

The local area risk assessment is detailed and includes appropriate strategies to mitigate risks to children. There is evidence of consultation with relevant agencies and with the child to establish their views on the local area. There are appropriate strategies in place to mitigate risks in the local vicinity to the child.

Safer recruitment practices have improved since the last inspection. However, a review of records identified that there are some minor gaps in the identity checks of some workers.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders and managers show high aspirations for staff and the child in their care. They know the child well and advocate for them effectively by liaising with partner agencies to ensure that their needs are met. This is a key strength of this home.

Staff benefit from a comprehensive training programme and regular training updates and so are aware of new developments in practice. Leaders and managers ensure that staff are well trained and equipped to develop good relationships with the child.

Team meetings take place regularly. The child's progress and safeguarding issues are discussed thoroughly. Staff use these forums to support each other and collectively plan the child's care and consider interventions. Supervision is reflective, child focused and supports staff to build their professional skills.

The child receives care from a confident and stable team of staff who describe the home as being part of a 'family'. Staff are happy at the home and feel that their colleagues and managers are supportive of them.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the recruitment of staff safeguards children and minimises potential risks to them by ensuring that records of safer recruitment checks are thorough and include all details to support proof of staff's identity. In particular, proof of addresses should be obtained from employees. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

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: 2737970

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Tamal Expert Assessors

Responsible individual: Blessing Muskwe

Registered manager: Tasunungurwa Havazvidi-Muskwe

Inspector

Angela Reid, Social Care Inspector

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