

2737970

Registered provider: TAMAL EXPERT ASSESSORS

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home provides care for one child with social and/or emotional difficulties.

The home and manager registered with Ofsted in November 2023.

No children were living at the home at the time of inspection.

Inspection date: 15 August 2024

Date of last inspection: not previously inspected

Judgement at last inspection: not previously inspected

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

There were no serious or widespread concerns identified in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Only one child has lived at the home since it registered. The manager made an effort to ensure that the child had a positive transition into the home. For example, the manager and staff visited the child to help build a relationship prior to the child moving into the home.

The child was subject to a deprivation of liberty order, and a thorough impact assessment was completed by the manager prior to the child moving in. The registered manager ensured that staff received training to support the child appropriately and to assist their understanding of the order.

The child was welcomed into the home and the children's guide was shared with them. The registered manager ensured that the child's wishes and feelings regarding their care plan were respected. For example, the child requested legal consultation prior to agreeing to the rules of the home, which was provided. The child also chose the decor for their room. Staff made efforts to provide the child with a sense of belonging.

The registered manager worked closely with teachers and the virtual school to ensure that the child's educational needs were met. As a result, the child received support to explore vocational training. This was a positive development for the child, who had not been in education for quite some time.

As a result of the positive relationship between staff and the child, missing-from-home episodes decreased significantly and this reduced the risk of exploitation for the child.

Staff followed the correct protocol when missing-from-home episodes occurred; staff alerted the police in a timely manner, and maintained regular contact with the child. Staff would check on the child's welfare and encourage them to return. Staff used informal and formal discussions to better understand the risks to the child and why the child would go missing. This showed the child that staff were interested in their welfare, and helped to keep the child safe.

When incidents did occur, they were managed well. Staff confidently used de-escalation strategies, and the child received debriefs following incidents. Staff supported the child to understand positive ways to express their views. Staff ensured that clear records of incidents were made, and management oversight was evident.

The child lived at the home for a month, and moved out due to a safeguarding incident involving third parties outside of the home. Leaders and managers have reviewed the circumstances surrounding this situation to ensure there is learning for

all staff. Leaders and managers liaised effectively with partner agencies to ensure that the child was not placed at harm and could be moved to another home. Staff remained in contact with the child during the process of transition from the home to support the move.

The registered manager has recently appointed a deputy manager; there is also a consultant who supports staff to reflect on their development and the care of children.

The training and induction programme is comprehensive and will support staff in having the skills to respond to the needs of children who move into the home.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to meet the needs of each child and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. In particular, ensure that exposed pipes are concealed to eliminate health and safety risks to children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 11, paragraph 3.7)

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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