

# 2772459

Registered provider: Sequel Support

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to two children with learning disabilities and/or autism. At the time of this inspection, one child was living in the home. The child met with the inspector.

The manager registered with Ofsted in March 2024, which is when the home opened. She is also the registered manager for another home operated by the provider.

Throughout the report, staff are referred to as 'adults', as this is the preferred term used for staff in the home.

### Inspection dates: 29 and 30 May 2025

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account</b> | <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:** 9 July 2024

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 09/07/2024      | Full            | Good                 |

## Inspection judgements

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

The home offers a warm and creatively decorated space, featuring bright colours and a sensory room that the child enjoys. The adults in the home provide a fun, caring and safe space for the child. They are dynamic in their approach, adapting in the moment to meet the child's needs using creative strategies, such as role modelling, curiosity, distraction, and, most importantly for the child, role play.

The adults ensure that the child has access to education and advocate strongly with partner agencies to meet the child's needs. The manager ensures that education professionals understand the child's care plans and can support the child in a consistent manner. Professionals working with the home commend its strong communication and note the child's significant progress since arriving.

The child has made good progress since being in the home. They are developing confidence in carrying out daily tasks and beginning to understand budgeting and managing money. The child enjoys a range of activities, including trips to London, a local park and the beach. The adults in the home are supporting the child in widening their areas of interest. They are helping the child to access social opportunities and addressing barriers to this happening by building the child's confidence and social skills.

Care plans are regularly updated and help to guide adults to provide care which is in line with the child's needs. However, while the child shares their views, they are not familiar with the contents of their care plan, as it is not presented in a way that aligns with their needs.

The adults care about the child in the home. The child has formed trusting relationships with the adults that are based on support, empathy and care. Milestones are celebrated. For example, a party was recently held to mark the child's one-year anniversary at the home.

Planning for children who come to live in the home is thorough. Careful consideration is given to children's needs. Assessments are comprehensive and realistic.

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

Since the last inspection, the child has made several allegations against the adults. These are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. The adults work to understand the child's feelings and behaviours. All allegations are tracked and reviewed. To support this, the manager brought in an external psychologist to help explore the child's behaviour and find helpful strategies. This joined-up approach has led to improved emotional well-being for the child and a noticeable drop in allegations in recent months.

Risks are well understood and well managed. The adults clearly understand the child's background and how this affects them. Where concerns have arisen, adults have recognised the risks and taken appropriate actions in a timely manner to address them. To ensure consistency among the adults, team meetings are held every other week. This contributes to their ability to offer dynamic care that responds quickly to the child's changeable presentation. The adults ensure that the child understands their expectations and provide clear and consistent boundaries.

The child is safe in the home. The adults understand how to help the child stay safe online and, in the community and they know what to do if the child goes missing. The child feels able to share their views with the adults in the home.

Physical intervention, when used to support the child, is carried out in a manner that is proportionate and brief in duration. The adults carried out interventions in accordance with their training. Following each incident, the adults demonstrated a reflective approach and a willingness to learn and improve their practice

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

The manager has a good understanding of the home's areas for development and is working to address these. The primary development area is ensuring that there is a permanent team of adults following a period of high vacancy rate. However, there are sufficient adults to meet the needs of the home and the child. The manager has ensured that the current team of adults have a diverse range of skills and experience. The home follows safer recruitment practices. Training is provided in line with the home's statement of purpose.

The manager is proactive and persistent in challenging other professionals, which has ensured that the child has been able to access health and education. The management team is responsive to the child's needs and has built the team's skills and confidence through regular supervision sessions and team meetings, which are meaningful, reflective and well attended. These meetings, now held biweekly, ensure a consistent approach to the child's care.

The manager fosters a proactive learning culture, which means that the adults are confident enough to raise suggestions and ideas to the leadership team, and these are followed up and implemented. The adults say they enjoy working in the home. They feel supported and enjoy seeing the child make progress. The manager provides good oversight to the adults. She has a thorough understanding of the day-to-day life of the child and ensures that plans are up to date and accurately reflect the child's needs.

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

### **Recommendation**

The registered person should ensure that each child receives the support they need to express their views, wishes and feelings in a way that is appropriate for their age and level of understanding. They should also be able to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of their care planning and daily care. This may include the use of communication aids. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.6)

### **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:** 2772459

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

**Registered provider:** Horizon Care Mayfield Lodge Ltd

**Registered provider address:** 264 High Road, Harrow HA3 7BB

**Responsible individual:** Abhay Shah

**Registered manager:** Emily Carter

## Inspector

Sally Shakespeare, Social Care Inspector

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