

2779767

Registered provider: Parallel Parents Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home registered with Ofsted in August 2024 and is run by a private company. It provides care for up to five children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the home.

The manager is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 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 previously inspected

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The inspector spoke with both children, who expressed they feel happy and safe in the home. When children are new to the home, staff prioritise their individuality and build relationships with them at their pace. This has contributed to the substantial progress made by each child while living in the home.

Staff understand the importance of children attending the right educational placement that will best meet their needs. Staff have advocated and supported a child over a significant period to move from an out-of-area school to a local specialist provision. This move meets the child's educational needs and fosters the development of meaningful friendships in the local area.

Children are consistently encouraged to express their views. There are weekly meetings and regular key-work sessions that capture children's wishes and feelings. The children's views are then considered and actioned during weekly staff meetings. This demonstrates to the children that their views are valued, heard, and acted on when appropriate.

Staff understand the importance of children seeing their families. Staff work with the children and their families to ensure that their time together is a positive experience. Children's families speak positively about the staff and feel that children are well looked after. One family member said, 'I couldn't wish for better carers for [name of child]. The staff are awesome with them.'

Children's moves from the home, when planned, are well supported and nurtured by staff. Staff collaborate with social workers and families to ensure that children are well prepared leading up to their move. Staff put plans in place before the child leaves, and when the child has moved, they continue to provide guidance and support to the new home or child's family until they are settled. This approach ensures a positive ending for these children when they leave the home.

The home is well presented, warm and welcoming. There are photos of the children on the walls, and books can be found throughout the house. The children's bedrooms are well furnished, clean, and personalised to their interests. The garden is large and well maintained, and children play there daily. However, there are unnecessary locks on doors in the communal areas. This takes away from the nurturing feel of the home.

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

Staff know children's individual risks well. When presented with a risk, staff follow clear guidelines. Staff understand the risks to children and take effective steps to reduce them. This lowers the risk of harm to children.

There has been a significant reduction in physical interventions in the home. Staff know the children well and recognise when they are distressed. Staff and children have identified effective coping strategies, and children are reminded to use them when necessary. When physical interventions are used, they are recorded accurately and in detail. Children and staff are given time to reflect on the incident, and it is further discussed during the weekly staff meeting. This enables everyone to understand what happened and identify what could be done differently to avoid repetition.

Staff are proactive when children go missing from home. They collaborate with professionals to return children home safely. Reports are detailed and highlight the persistent efforts of staff to locate children. When children return, they take part in return home interviews. This allows them to speak to an independent person about their feelings. This reinforces to children that they are cared for.

There have been no complaints, but children know how to raise them if required. They are reminded weekly at their house meetings and have free access to complaint forms. When asked, each child said they have a staff member who they would confidently speak to if they ever had a concern.

Staff new to the home have been recruited in line with safer recruitment policies and practices, which ensures that they are suitable to work with children. An effective induction sees staff receive training to equip them with the skills and knowledge to carry out their roles effectively.

Children's positive behaviours are rewarded using incentives. This strategy encourages children to link positive behaviours with good outcomes. Staff respond to negative behaviours by imposing consequences. However, staff sometimes fail to log these consequences appropriately. This results in a lack of transparency in work practice.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is passionate about the staff team, children's care, and the development of the home. They demonstrate that they strive to achieve positive outcomes for the children and have a dedicated team to support them. There are good monitoring systems in place to highlight any shortfalls and to ensure that the staff are meeting children's needs.

The manager champions staff development. When staff wish to progress in the organisation, they are enrolled on management courses, take part in professional meetings, and attend specialised training programmes to enhance their skill base. This encourages the staff to feel invested in the development of the home, which promotes better outcomes for the children.

Staff receive support and encouragement from the manager, including regular supervision sessions, annual appraisals and team meetings. The manager encourages professional curiosity and reflection during these meetings to establish best practice for the children, which, in turn, provides a good standard of care that is child centred.

Staff training is up to date. There is an effective system in place that highlights when staff have completed the necessary training and when this needs to be refreshed. The manager sources training that is specific to the children's needs. This ensures that the staff have an acute awareness of children's specific history and risks and helps them understand the children better.

There is effective communication between staff and professionals. The manager attends children's meetings and advocates on their behalf. This means that all professionals are working towards the same plan for the children. When necessary, the manager will challenge professionals whose responses fail to ensure the safety or welfare of the children. This challenge promotes safer practice for children.

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 registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—	25 April 2025

has spoken to the user about the measure; and

has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and

within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.

(Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))

In particular, the registered person must ensure that any consequences imposed due to children's actions are clearly recorded.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the home is a nurturing and supportive environment that meets children's needs. Children's homes will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. In particular, the registered person should ensure that doors are not locked in communal areas and children have free access to all areas of their home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: 2779767

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Parallel Parents Ltd

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor Lansdowne House, 85 Buxton Road Heavily,
Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6LR

Responsible individual: Sinead Lewis

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Deirdre Silkstone, 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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