

2782456

Registered provider: New Focus Childcare Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for one child who experiences social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the inspection, one child was living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2024. He also manages another children's home in the organisation. That home is judged to be good.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 January 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 the child living in the home during the inspection.

The child was provided with information about the home before they moved in. The manager liaised with professionals involved in the child's life to gather information to contribute to the assessment and the individual care plan for the child. This good work helped the staff to prepare well for the child's arrival. The child has settled and has formed some positive relationships with staff.

Staff understand the importance of education for all children. There has been a delay in the home receiving the child's education, health and care plan, which means that an appropriate education placement has not yet been identified. However, staff continue to encourage and support the child to engage in informal education while this is resolved.

Healthcare is promoted well by staff. The child is registered with community healthcare professionals and attends appointments. Staff recognise the importance of promoting good physical health through diet, exercise and personal hygiene, and this has had a positive effect on the child's physical and emotional well-being.

The staff provide plenty of opportunities for the child's views to be included in all aspects of their care and support. This is through care planning, key-work sessions and regular individual conversations.

Activities in the home and the local community are encouraged and supported. Staff spend time finding appropriate activities based on the child's individual interests. This provides opportunities for the child to meet other children with similar interests and increase their social friendship group.

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

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of safeguarding and ensure that this is central to their overall care and practice. Comprehensive risk assessments identify risks and the measures to be implemented to support and manage these. The risk assessments are kept under review, which enables the manager and staff to assess how effective measures are in managing and reducing risks. Staff hold regular discussions with the child to help them understand how to keep safe and how behaviours can affect others.

Detailed behaviour management plans include information about how staff will support children to manage behaviours. The child's views are clearly recorded along with strategies which help the child to manage and regulate their emotions. This helps children to become increasingly safe. Physical intervention is rarely used. When it is used, it is appropriately recorded alongside the child's views.

On two occasions, staff have had to call police to the home due to heightened behaviours. The manager has reflected on the incidents and implemented additional behaviour strategies to minimise the risk of this occurring in the future.

There have been no incidents of a child going missing from the home. The home has copies of missing-from-home local protocols and procedures as well as those of the child's placing authority. All staff have received training in relation to the procedures to follow in the event of a child going missing from the home.

Recruitment and selection of staff are in line with safer recruitment guidance to further contribute to safeguarding children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is suitably qualified and experienced and has high aspirations for children. He is supported in his role by a deputy manager and two team leaders who have experience of working with children.

The staff team recruited before the home opened had the opportunity to undertake training and work in other homes in the organisation. This has enabled staff to gain a good understanding of the ethos of the organisation. They say the manager offers clear guidance and oversight and will provide professional challenge when required.

Induction, training and development plans are in place for all staff. These are effective, enabling staff to gain knowledge and skills to support the needs of a child placed at the home. When there is an identified specific need, the manager requests additional training for staff, which they undertake to give them a greater understanding of the child's needs and how to meet them.

Staff receive regular supervision, which supports them to reflect on their practice and their impact in the home and for the child. Appraisals have yet to be carried out due to the limited time the home has been open.

The manager has effective monitoring and reviewing systems in place to help him understand the child's progress and outcomes. An independent visitor to the home and the responsible individual offer additional monitoring and oversight. The manager acts on any shortfalls identified in a timely manner.

The manager has endeavoured to develop positive links in the local community. However, there have been some complaints made in relation to staff parking on the street outside of the home. The manager has taken appropriate action, spoken with neighbours and located additional parking away from the home to avoid any issues with potential congestion in the residential street.

Overall, the home provides a warm, welcoming and homely environment. However, some fixtures and fittings are damaged and require repairing or replacing. A recommendation has been made in relation to this.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the home is a nurturing and supportive environment that meets children's needs. In most cases, children's homes are homely, domestic environments. The home must comply with relevant health and safety legislations, such as alarms and food hygiene. However, in doing so, the home should seek as far as possible to maintain a domestic rather than 'institutional' impression. This specifically relates to ensuring that damaged fittings are repaired or replaced. ('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: 2782456

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: New Focus Childcare Ltd

Registered provider address: Unit A4, Dewsbury Road, Fenton Industrial Estate,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 2TE

Responsible individual: Amanda Porter

Registered manager: Keilan Bond

Inspector

Sarah Oldham, Social Care Inspector

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