

SC007608

Registered provider: Pear Tree Projects Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and run by a private provider. It provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in March 2020.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home. The inspectors spoke with both children during the inspection.

Inspection dates: 13 and 14 May 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: 10 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/09/2024	Full	Good
04/10/2023	Full	Good
31/10/2022	Full	Good
01/03/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children develop positive relationships with staff, who have a good knowledge of the children's individual personalities and needs. Staff offer children nurture and comfort while maintaining structured routines and boundaries. As a result, children make progress living at this home.

Staff recognise the importance of family time for children. They ensure that children spend positive time with those most important to them. Staff's relationships and open lines of communication with family members keep them informed about the children's progress and experiences, additionally helping the children's relationships when needed.

Education is highly valued by staff in the home. Children have excellent attendance at school, and communication between staff and school contributes to supporting these outcomes. This means children experience consistent support both at home and school and make good progress as a result.

Children are helped to complete independence tasks appropriate to their age. They develop the necessary skills to help them prepare for adulthood and develop their resilience to cope with what life will be like beyond living at this home.

Staff help children to explore a wide range of activities and interests, stay healthy, make new friends and develop new hobbies. Children are supported to develop links to the community by being involved in local groups, such as the Guides and Nature Rangers. This helps to build the children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children say they feel listened to by staff. Staff hold children's meetings regularly and help children to share their views, wishes and feelings. Children's wishes are acted on by staff, and children can see the results of sharing their views. As a result, children learn that their voice is important.

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

Staff have a good understanding of children's individual risks and vulnerabilities. They respond effectively when concerns arise and involve the right professionals to help keep children safe. Clearly written risk assessments give staff the right guidance they need to safeguard the children.

When bullying incidents occur, staff help children to understand the impact their behaviour has on others. The two children in the home have experienced challenges in their relationship. The staff's work to develop the children's tolerance and understanding of one another has helped the children's relationship to strengthen.

The manager follows safeguarding procedures when concerns are raised about staff's practice. She involves the right professionals, and records clearly describe the actions taken. Action is taken to listen to children and work things through with staff. This helps children to know they are listened to, and their concerns are taken seriously.

Physical intervention is appropriately used to keep children safe. Staff are trained to do this safely and use holds only as a last resort. After an intervention occurs, children and staff are debriefed, and learning is taken from discussing the incident. Risk assessments and strategies are reviewed to ensure that staff remain responsive to any emerging concerns in behaviour.

The manager has made improvements to the way staff give consequences for unwanted behaviour, ensuring that positive behaviour is equally recognised. When consequences are given, children are supported to understand the impact of their behaviour and helped where possible with restorative approaches. Where financial consequences are used, children are given the option to pay these early by helping around the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has a clear understanding of the strengths of the team and leads the staff effectively to keep children safe and be happy. She is supported by a stable and dedicated team of staff who share her enthusiasm for improving outcomes for children.

Staff have regular practice-related supervision. These sessions give opportunities for staff to reflect on their practice and how this impacts the children in the home. Staff say they feel supported by the manager and appreciate the opportunities supervision gives them to discuss important issues. One staff member said, 'I love being here. It feels like being at home, not work.'

Team meetings are well attended. They give staff the opportunity to discuss and reflect as a group about the progress the children are making. Staff contribute to the team meetings, and the meetings help them agree on a consistent approach to the care they give to children.

The manager monitors staff's training needs and when refresher training is due to be completed, ensuring that staff's learning and development are maintained. The manager arranges specific training to help staff meet the individual needs of children. This means that staff have access to the right resources to inform their practice.

The manager uses effective systems to help her maintain a good overview of the service. These systems give her information that allows her to evaluate the progress of children and staff in the home and take action when areas of improvement are needed.

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: SC007608

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Pear Tree Projects Limited

Registered provider address: Peartree House, Bolam, Darlington, County Durham
DL2 2UP

Responsible individual: David Bartlett

Registered manager: Lesley Holywell

Inspectors

Mark Cryer, Social Care Inspector
Dawn McCluskey, Social Care Inspector

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