

SC008274

Registered provider: Searchlight Care Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for one child who has lived through adverse childhood experiences.

The current manager has been in post since September 2020. She holds a level 5 diploma in leadership and management.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

Inspection dates: 1 to 2 June 2021

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: 2 January 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/01/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
08/10/2019	Full	Good
20/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
15/01/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, one child has moved into foster care. The child was able to make the move successfully. Records show that the child's transition process was gradual, over a four-month period. The feelings of the child were carefully considered throughout the process.

One new child has been welcomed into the home and is settling in well.

Children receive a good level of support from a committed staff team. Staff have a positive view of the children they look after and work hard to help each child develop positive relationships. This helps children to feel confident about their relationships with staff and supports their progress.

All staff are aware of the detail set out in children's individual plans and follow these plans in their everyday practice. This ensures that children's objectives are fully met.

Children have access to health services that promote their physical and emotional well-being. Children are encouraged and supported to attend routine appointments with primary health care services.

Children's medication is stored and administered safely by trained and competent staff.

Children access education placements that meet their individual needs. Staff encourage children's learning, and this helps them to make progress. For example, one child who previously did not attend school, has achieved 80% attendance. This supports improved educational outcomes.

Staff support children to maintain positive relationships with family and friends. Staff work closely with children and their families to ensure safe and positive experiences.

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

Staff understand the risks and potential hazards for children and follow detailed risk-management strategies to promote children's safety and well-being. Safeguarding issues are identified promptly and are acted on in line with local and national guidelines. Staff work directly with children to support them to make positive choices in relation to their personal safety. This has contributed to increasing children's safety.

Staff make good use of positive relationships and de-escalation techniques to manage conflict and confrontation. Because of this, the use of physical intervention is rare and only used as a last resort. Sanctions are fair and proportionate and help children to understand the effect of their behaviour on themselves and others. Staff

offer rewards to children to celebrate their achievements and to promote positive behaviour.

Children live in a physically safe environment. Regular health and safety checks on all electrical, gas and fire safety equipment help to make sure that they remain in good working order. Staff carry out regular fire drills so that children know what they need to do in the event of an emergency.

Children are protected by the organisation's recruitment practices. Staff are vetted and assessed as suitable before any appointment is confirmed. These procedures promote the safety of children by preventing unsuitable adults from working with them.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by a committed and experienced manager. She has high expectations for the quality of care to be provided and is pushing forward improvements in service delivery.

Staff receive regular supervision and are appraised annually. They benefit from a range of appropriate training, which develops their knowledge, skills and professional practice. New staff undergo an induction programme followed by enrolment on the diploma in residential childcare award. As a result, staff are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet children's wide-ranging needs.

The manager has formed positive relationships with a range of partners, including parents, placing authorities and teachers. This helps to secure a coordinated approach that means staff are better able to meet children's individual needs. One parent told the inspector, 'Communication is really good. I get weekly summaries on how he has been and, because I work, I get contacted through WhatsApp.'

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: SC008274

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Searchlight Care Services Limited

Registered provider address: Marcus House, Parkhall Road, Longton, Stoke on Trent ST3 5XA

Responsible individual: Paul Turner

Registered manager: Irene Merriman

Inspector

Dave Carrigan, Social Care Inspector

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