

SC008488

Registered provider: Halliwell Homes Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and is registered to provide care for up to eight children who may experience a range of social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the inspection, five children were living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2022.

Inspection date: 1 February 2024

Date of last inspection: 10 October 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

One child has moved in to the home and two children have moved out. Staff and the manager have supported children to move out and prepared them for their new homes. When children move in to the home, their needs are carefully assessed. This ensures that they fit in well with the other children.

The home environment has improved, with changes in décor. The home looks like a family home and is comfortable. The children can play in a large games room and garden. Each child has a personalised room in which they display family photos and other items that are individual to them. This helps the children to feel at home.

All the children attend school full time. Two of them are now attending mainstream school, and there is a plan for a third child to start mainstream school soon. There are clear lines of communication between schools and staff, and any issues that arise are quickly resolved.

Each child has planned activities on most days. Staff offer a variety of fun activities outside of the home, such as football, swimming and going to the park. There are also fun activities in the home. Children can play with a large range of games, bake with staff, and have access to computer equipment. Children have lots of opportunities to try new things and have fun.

Incidents in the home have reduced. One child who had previously had many incidents has not had an incident for over two months. Behaviour is managed well, and children are settled.

Safeguarding incidents are managed appropriately, and the manager has good links with partner agencies, such as the local authority designated officer, the police, and the local authority. This ensures that children are kept safe.

Staff who have been recruited since the last inspection have had thorough safer recruitment checks. This means that staff are vetted as being appropriate to work with vulnerable children.

A detailed induction programme has been put in place. All staff are up to date with the company's 'core' training, which includes safeguarding training. The company has a programme of training in place. This is to help to embed the company's chosen therapeutic parenting model and ensure that staff are trained to meet children's specific needs. This ensures that children are cared for by well-trained staff.

Some staff have decided to leave the company. The manager has tried to ensure that the changes in staff do not affect the children. The team strive to have good relationships with all the children.

The manager and the management team are passionate about 'getting it right' for the children. They have been instrumental in making positive changes that have improved how children are cared for.

Some language used in the home to describe routines and activities might make children feel different to their peers.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/10/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
25/07/2023	Full	Inadequate
24/05/2022	Full	Good
06/12/2021	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Recommendation

- The responsible person should ensure that the home maintains a nurturing environment, and that language used when describing routines and activities reflects that used in a family home. ('The Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards.' Page 15 paragraph 3.9)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC008488

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Halliwell Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Pearce House, 80 Cawdor Street, Eccles M30 0QF

Responsible individual: Paul Bliss

Registered manager: Benjamin Williams

Inspector

Cathy Wilkins, Social Care Inspector

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