

SC014235

Registered provider: Lioncare Ltd Operating as The Lioncare Group

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and is registered to provide care for up to seven children who experience social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 25 February 2016.

There were seven children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

Inspection dates: 31 January and 1 February 2024

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: 20 March 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/03/2023	Full	Outstanding
02/06/2021	Full	Outstanding
09/12/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
07/05/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The care and support that children receive are consistently good. The staff provide child-centred and highly nurturing care. As a result, children feel supported and part of a family-type home.

Staff ensure that care and support plans for children provide a comprehensive picture and sense of the child, their uniqueness and needs. Staff understand the importance of reading and updating these plans to ensure that children receive up-to-date, individualised care. Consequently, the staff have been able to help the children make important progress from the time they move into the home.

All children attend school full time and are making progress. Staff work closely with the children's school to support and maintain their school place. For example, one child is able to return home every day when struggling with the social aspect of school lunchtimes. Staff understand the importance of children following their individual interests. They encourage children to engage in a variety of activities of their choice outside of the home. This builds the children's social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Children describe feeling safe. The relationships between the children and staff are warm and loving overall, in accordance with the therapeutic ethos. However, on one occasion, it was noted that a senior staff member did not respond to a child in a manner consistent with the service's therapeutic approach. This could potentially have a detrimental impact on the child's positive sense of identity.

Staff encourage the children to participate in the running of the home, and the children's views are sought in daily house meetings. Children are comfortable to express their feelings safely because they know their views are valued.

Staff understand the children's health needs. They are proactive to ensure the children attend all relevant health appointments. However, on one occasion, they did not seek immediate support for a child who was involved in an accident. Such delay could potentially put the health and well-being of children at risk.

The home is generally well maintained. However, some damaged curtain rails and paintwork require repair. The children's bedrooms have been personalised, which contributes to the children's sense of belonging. Children take pride in their personal spaces and are supported by staff to maintain these.

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

Staff have a good understanding of children's individual risks and vulnerabilities. Staff create and regularly review detailed individualised risk management plans. These guide staff in how to keep children safe. Staff manage risk in a way that supports children to learn how to keep themselves safe.

Children have not gone missing from the home since the last inspection. Staff have completed some effective work to address the heightened risks of the older children going missing from home as they gain more independence. Staff understand the heightened vulnerabilities of future exploitation for children who have been abused and traumatised in the past.

In the two months before this inspection, levels of physical restraint of children increased. Managers acknowledge that December and January were challenging periods for staff and children. Staff have carried out reflective work with the children to explore the possible reasons for this. This partnership approach between staff and the children has quickly led to a significant reduction in the severity and frequency of incidents. When incidents do occur, staff maintain detailed and clear records. Managers complete reflective debriefs with both children and staff. This enables learning for both staff and children. As a result, staff are able to adapt behaviour management approaches to better support the children.

There have been many changes in the home. These have included staff changes and changes to children living at the home. The potential destabilising influence of this was not predicted by leaders effectively. However, the manager has since recognised this and has worked to restore a calm and productive space for the children.

Leaders have worked closely with safeguarding partners to find safe and effective ways to support children who make high levels of unfounded allegations. Shared protocols that prioritise the safety of children and balance risk for staff are in development.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager and senior leaders are committed to ensuring that the children receive the care and support that they need. They lead the staff team well to ensure that their vision is shared by the staff.

The manager is held in high regard by the staff team. Staff describe receiving regular and meaningful supervision. Morale within the staff team is good. Despite the challenges they have faced in recent months, staff state that they enjoy coming to work and feel supported by the team and senior managers.

The manager is very experienced. Staff and professionals describe her as approachable. She and the deputy manager value staff and have worked hard to

create a relaxed and happy atmosphere at the home. Staff are encouraged to see their jobs as a career and are given opportunities to progress in the organisation.

Children's records are maintained to a high standard, with strong management oversight. The manager works transparently with agencies and provides detailed reports on all matters relating to the care of the children, including safeguarding notifications.

The manager ensures that effective systems are in place to make sure that staff working with children are safely recruited. Staff are provided with a suitable induction and ongoing training to support them in their role.

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 health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b))	27 March 2024
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— strive to gain each child's respect and trust. (Regulation 11 (1)(a) (2)(a)(viii))	27 March 2024

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that children live in a warm and welcoming environment with a homely feel. ('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: SC014235

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lioncare Ltd Operating as The Lioncare Group

Registered provider address: Lioncare House, 58a Livingstone Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 3WL

Responsible individual: Matthew Vince

Registered manager: Sarah Jackson

Inspectors

Jane Balfe, Social Care Inspector

Peter Jackson, Social Care Inspector

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