

SC025664

Registered provider: Ownlife Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run children's home. The home's statement of purpose states that the home cares for up to three children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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: 13 and 14 October 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: 12 March 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/03/2020	Full	Good
29/11/2018	Full	Good
19/02/2018	Interim	Not judged
08/06/2017	Interim	Not judged

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are provided with a good standard of care from a stable and committed staff team. Children have developed close relationships and bonds with trusted adults at the home.

Children receive good-quality individualised care at this home. Children's experiences and outcomes are directly influenced by the staff team's approach and the good leadership and management at the home.

Children living at the home often have complex needs associated with previous experiences of trauma. However, children make good progress from their starting points. There are some good achievements for children, such as returning to education, seeking and gaining employment, learning how to regulate their emotions and improved relationships with their families.

Children who are preparing to leave the home to live more independently learn basic skills to support themselves effectively in adulthood. These include budgeting, shopping and general household tasks.

Children's health needs are met effectively, and staff are able to manage a range of health conditions. Children enjoy a nutritious diet and learn to develop a positive relationship with food. Children also enjoy regular exercise.

In response to the pandemic and having to be more home-based, staff encourage children's participation in activities at the home. As outdoor activities and venues open more widely, a plan of structured events, including go-karting, is being discussed for the summer holidays.

Children influence the care that they receive at the home. They have access to independent advocacy. Contact with family and friends is arranged and promoted in accordance with care plans.

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

Managers and staff work in partnership with other agencies, to safeguard children who are missing from the home or at risk of harm in the community.

There has been a reduction in the number of episodes of children going missing from this home. There are good procedures in place to manage these incidents, which means that staff know what to do should a child go missing from the home. Safeguarding procedures are comprehensive and fully understood by the staff team. Risk assessments are individualised for each child. However, risk assessments and behaviour support plans do not always contain pertinent and up-to-date information. Furthermore, they do not demonstrate that children contribute to their plans.

The staff team have undertaken safeguarding training, including training on enhanced safeguarding topics such as criminal exploitation, substance misuse and epilepsy awareness. This helps staff to understand how to keep children safe.

Consequences that are given to children for negative behaviour are proportionate and appropriate. However, they are not always recorded in the manner expected by regulation. The observations of the manager are not always recorded, which does not allow for future analysis of patterns and trends.

Children say that they feel safe living at the home. The physical home environment is well maintained and checked regularly for hazards.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is managed by an experienced and qualified registered manager who is competent and child centred. He gives careful consideration to any new admissions to the home.

The managers are child focused, ambitious for children and have high expectations of what children can achieve and of what staff are required to do to meet children's needs. This ethos drives up standards and ensures that children receive good-quality individualised care.

The quality assurance system at the home includes identifying and reflecting on patterns and trends. The independent person's monthly reports are used by leaders and managers to improve the quality of care provided to children. However, the quality of care review reports are not provided to Ofsted in a timely manner.

Leaders and managers ensure that staff are safely recruited. Safer recruitment processes ensure that only suitable staff are offered employment at the home. During the inspection, staff reported feeling well supported and respected in their roles. Staff also described a good induction process and confirmed that they have access to ongoing online training to support them in their role.

Leaders, managers and staff provide good-quality care to children, in line with the aims and objectives outlined in the statement of purpose. They work well with other professionals and partners who provided positive feedback about the home. One social worker said: 'The home has been excellent. I can't fault them.'

The requirements set at the last full inspection have been met.

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, 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 registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report"). The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed; and make a copy of the quality of care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home. The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))	30 November 2021

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children are supported to contribute to and have a say in their support plans. Where any child expresses unhappiness with support plans, a record of the child's response must be recorded word for word. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 58, paragraph 11.19)
- The registered person should ensure that children's written records evidence the progress that children have made since being placed at the home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 31, paragraph 6.4)
- The registered person should ensure that the most up-to-date risk assessment and behaviour support plans for children are placed in their care files. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)

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: SC025664

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Ownlife Limited

Registered provider address: Legion House, 75 Lower Road, Kenley CR8 5NH

Responsible individual: David Hastings

Registered manager: Steven Munn

Inspector

Juanita Mayers, Social Care Inspector

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