

SC025664

Registered provider: Ownlife Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run home provides care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in June 2001. The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2023.

At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 June 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: 23 August 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/11/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/10/2021	Full	Good
12/03/2020	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children settle quickly at this home and make steady progress considering their starting points. Children have warm relationships and lively conversations with the staff. Consequently, children enjoy living in the home and using the facilities, including playing in the garden, jumping on the trampoline, and using a boxing bag.

Children have access to all relevant health professionals. Children's plans and records are detailed and include their relevant healthcare needs. Staff help children to attend all their routine health appointments, and work closely with health professionals to ensure that children receive appropriate care and support. Staff consider children's views in relation to their health; staff manage children's medication and seek medical advice if children raise concerns about their health.

Staff place a strong emphasis on education and encourage the children to learn. Staff have a child-centred approach and encourage children to access educational provisions. One child who has specific educational needs has recently started to receive home tutoring. Two children have been supported to maintain full-time education with good attendance despite recently moving into the home.

Children are supported by staff who are empathetic and understand how to de-escalate situations. This results in children developing the ability to reflect on situations with staff and to consider healthy reactions when they are upset.

Children are supported to maintain positive and safe relationships with the people who are important to them. Staff support the children to spend quality time with their family and friends, inside and outside of the home. This creates a homely environment for the children.

Staff value and promote the children's diversity. Children are well supported to explore their identity and develop a positive self-image. The members of the diverse staff team introduce the children to different cultures.

Children say that they like staff and feel able to talk to them. This means that children more readily engage in key-worker sessions with staff about issues that affect them. Children listen to the guidance that staff offer and are comfortable sharing their views on topics relevant to their care. Children's views are listened to, and children know how to make a complaint if they are unhappy about aspects of their care.

Staff understand the importance of creating a homely atmosphere for children, and they do this well. Children's bedrooms are personalised to their taste. The home is comfortably furnished and clean. Minor damage to a television and a bathroom panel was swiftly repaired.

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

Managers and staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's needs and vulnerabilities. Staff work well with external professionals and children to explore risks and to help children learn how to keep themselves safe.

Children's risk assessments are reviewed and updated regularly. Children's views are included as an integral part of their risk assessments. This ensures that children contribute to their own care planning.

Managers and staff advocate for ongoing health support to promote the children's well-being. One child had stopped taking their prescribed medication, and staff used informal and formal conversations to help the child understand possible risks. Managers and staff liaised with health and social care professionals to ensure the child's health was not negatively impacted.

Staff take appropriate action when children are missing from home. They stay in contact with the children and update their families; staff work with other professionals to help ensure that protocols are followed. Records of missing-from-home incidents are reviewed, and interviews are completed between staff and children. Staff work collaboratively with families, friends, and key professionals to ensure there is a clear plan of action in place to safeguard children.

Staff have undertaken safeguarding training and demonstrate a good understanding of relevant policies and procedures. Furthermore, staff have a good understanding of whistle-blowing procedures and know whom to contact if there is a concern. This increases children's safety in the home.

Managers ensure that staff are safely recruited and suitable to work with the children. Managers carry out thorough checks of staff who apply to work at the home. This includes obtaining appropriate references from previous employers and completing criminal record checks.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders and managers recognise the strengths of the home and the areas where they need to focus further development. Leaders and managers have clear action plans in place regarding the development of the home and the care offered to children.

Leaders and managers are strong advocates for children and challenge responsible authorities effectively when they do not fulfil their statutory obligations. For example, managers raised concerns regarding the level of social work support and educational provision for a child. This resulted in the responsible authority taking action to provide the appropriate support to the child. A police officer stated, 'Without her [registered manager] advocating for the young person, I believe this young person would have no access to education and this would have gone on indefinitely.'

Staff report that they feel well supported by leaders and managers. Staff benefit from a thorough induction, regular supervision, and appraisals. Supervision sessions are reflective and offer staff support and guidance. Managers and staff consider the needs and progress of children within supervision sessions. The training provided to staff builds their confidence in meeting the children's specific needs. Team meetings are used for staff to reflect on practice and the needs of children.

Leaders and managers work well with external agencies and professionals. Feedback from professionals is positive, and professionals praise the quality of care provided to children.

Leaders and managers consider the needs of children before they move into the home. However, managers have not always ensured that all relevant records have been received prior to children moving in, and have not followed the admission process reflected within the home's statement of purpose.

The manager holds timely debriefs with children and staff following any incidents. This helps children and staff feel cared about and listened to. The manager learns from incidents and makes changes to reduce the risk of further incidents.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that they only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans. In particular, all children should be admitted in line with the home's statement of purpose and have all needs identified recorded in the home care plans. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 56, paragraph 11.4)
- The registered person should ensure that the home provides a homely, domestic environment. In particular, they should ensure that repairs are made promptly. ('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: 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: Sharon Odumosu

Inspector

Ann Adesoye, Social Care Inspector
Natalie Marshall, Social Care Inspector

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