

SC028460

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider to care for up to four children who may have emotional and/or social difficulties.

There are two children and one young person currently living in the home. The inspector spoke to the children and the young person during this inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2002.

Inspection dates: 13 and 14 February 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 5 April 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/04/2022	Full	Good
04/05/2021	Full	Good
08/04/2019	Full	Good
09/04/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children say that one of the main reasons that they are happy living in the home is because staff are kind and nurturing. One young person said, 'The staff are understanding and always listen to me.'

Children and young people who have moved out of the home are invited to visit for family evenings with staff and the children who live in the home. These occasions involve a meal and a memorable activity together, such as enjoying time with animals from a mobile petting zoo or a fun exercise class. Photos displayed of these celebratory times provide a reminder for children and young people that they continue to be important to staff beyond their time living in the home.

Staff support and encourage the children to view their future with positivity and ambition. When children experience difficulties in attending school, the manager provides learning opportunities at home. This includes helping children to develop skills for independence. One education professional said, 'A strength of the staff is they persistently teach life skills. They develop children's confidence to help them to become competent.'

Children are provided with a broad range of experiences and resources to help them to understand the benefits of making healthy choices. The manager arranges for health services to visit the children at home, so that children can informally discuss and gain information on topics including sexual health and the dangers of substance misuse.

The lounge and another recreation room are locked during the day to prevent the children from accessing these areas if they do not go to school. This restriction limits the level of freedom that the children experience.

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

Children are helped to know how to make a complaint and are encouraged to share their views and worries. When a child did not experience a timely response to a complaint they made to an external professional, staff escalated the concern. This promoted the child's voice being heard.

Staff regularly talk to children about the risks that they face and provide practical strategies to help them to keep themselves safe, including in the community and online.

Staff impose appropriate consequences to help the children to understand that they are accountable for their actions. Staff are responsive when children show remorse and help the children to understand that they have the power to put things right. One child said, 'The staff are patient and forgiving, they don't give up on you.'

A serious incident occurred in which a child was able to leave the home during the night undetected by staff. Some of the checks required to establish the child's whereabouts were not carried out. The manager swiftly shared this information with relevant safeguarding agencies and followed appropriate disciplinary procedures. The manager has shared the learning from this isolated incident with all staff, who have either already attended additional training or have this arranged to reaffirm the responsibilities and expectations of their roles.

The manager installed a surveillance camera in the kitchen after a child experienced an issue while in there alone. The manager responded to a further incident with a suitable strategy to keep the children safe, with staff now supervising children in the kitchen. The camera remains in the kitchen despite there not being an appropriate reason for this, which is unnecessarily intrusive.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager, who is suitably qualified and experienced for the position, is supported by an experienced deputy.

The turnover of staff is low. The stability of the staff team helps the children to experience familiarity and consistency.

Safe recruitment processes provide assurances that staff have been appropriately vetted before they care for the children.

The manager has developed an effective system to review the quality of care that the children receive. This includes consulting the children and using their views to develop and improve the home.

Supervision is used to discuss each child's current needs. The manager provides opportunities for staff to reflect on and adapt their practice, to raise the standard of care that the children receive.

The shortfalls raised at the last inspection have been addressed and the previously issued requirements are judged to 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, 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 registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))	15 March 2024
The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if— the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children; the monitoring or surveillance is no more intrusive than necessary, having regard to the child's need for privacy. (Regulation 24 (1)(a)(d))	15 March 2024

Information about this inspection

The inspector has 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: SC028460

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Responsible individual: Monica Thompson

Registered manager: Valerie Campbell

Inspector

Paula Kelly, Social Care Inspector

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