

SC028599

Registered provider: Children and Family Services Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a private organisation and provides care for up to seven children with physical and/or learning disabilities. At the time of this inspection, seven children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2022.

Inspection date: 6 January 2025

Date of last inspection: 7 August 2024

Judgement at last inspection requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, 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.

There are currently seven children living at the home. All of the children were seen during the inspection.

One child moved out during this review period. This move took place in a planned way. One child recently moved in and is making good progress. Their school provided positive feedback on how the staff have supported the child and the positive effect that this has had on the child's physical and emotional development.

Most children have lived at the home for a long period of time. A range of feedback was received from parents and professionals. This feedback highlighted the excellent communication from staff and the support and care for children.

One young person has recently turned 18 years old. They have lived at the home for over five years. They have made great progress with their independence skills. They enjoy an active social life, going out independently to meet friends, playing pool and going bowling. They will be moving out soon and it is clear that they will be missed by the staff. The young person gave positive feedback about the home and said that they thought it was 'amazing'.

Children are supported to see their family, who are welcomed to the home. One parent spoke about how she can call in whenever she wants and how much she appreciates this.

Children take part in a range of activities. Staff promote children spending time together. For example, children went out together on New Year's Eve to see some fireworks. They have been on trips to the beach, holidays and cinema, and specialist days have been arranged for children with additional needs. This helps children to have fun and take part in enjoyable activities.

Children have a minimum of one-to-one staffing. Staff know children well and this is clear in their plans. Children's plans are individual to each child and describe their needs and challenges. They include strategies to help staff support children.

One child had a specialist feeding regime when they moved into the home, which involved being tube-fed liquids. Over time, staff have supported them to be able to eat solid foods without the need for a tube. The social worker said that the child has 'absolutely thrived'. She spoke of the positive impact of them being able to go to eat with their peers at a restaurant, as they have never been able to do this before. This child also experienced their first ever holiday with staff in the summer.

There have been several medication errors since the last inspection. Leaders and managers are aware of this and have put plans in place to help address it. Staff have had further training; however, since that time, there has been another error. One child also receives an 'as required' prescribed medication. The protocol for this is not sufficiently clear and the regular administration of this has not been reviewed.

The kitchen in one house is locked, with keypad entry. There is no clear, risk assessed reason for this. Children should be able to access all areas of their home unless there is a clear safety reason for why this is not appropriate.

The manager in place is suitably qualified and experienced. He has developed an action plan since the last inspection. He has been open and transparent and is keen to continue to improve the service. He has made improvements in a number of areas.

Staff said that the manager is very approachable and supportive. Professionals also gave him positive feedback. However, supervisions have not always been carried out in line with the home's policy for staff and bank staff.

The manager has met the requirements from the last inspection. One recommendation for staff supervision will be restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/08/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/08/2023	Full	Good
10/05/2022	Full	Good
08/06/2021	Full	Good

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 make arrangements for the handling, recording and safe administration of medicines received into the children's home. (Regulation 23 (1)) In particular, staff need to follow the correct procedures when administering medication, and the manager needs to complete a clear protocol for 'as required' medication.	5 February 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that just as in a family home, children are able to access all shared areas of their home unless there are specific reasons why this would not meet a child's needs. Limits on privacy and access may only be put in place to safeguard each child in the home, and any decisions to limit a child's access to any area of the home for safety reasons should be informed by a rigorous assessment of that individual child's needs, be properly recorded and be kept under regular review. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.10)
- The registered person should ensure that there are systems in place so that all staff receive supervision that allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. The frequency of supervision should be in line with company policy. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC028599

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Children and Family Services Limited

Registered provider address: Number 3 Siskin Drive, Middlemarch Business Park,
Coventry CV3 4FJ

Responsible individual: post vacant

Registered manager: Steven Chijota

Inspector

Mary Costello, Social Care Inspector

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