

SC030367

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This independent charitable school is also registered as a children's home. It is registered to provide care for up to 42 children. The accommodation for children is provided across eight houses located at or near to the school. At the time of the inspection, 33 children were living at the home.

The manager has applied to register with Ofsted. The inspectors only inspected the social care provision.

Inspection date: 15 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 29 November 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors 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.

The care of children

Children enjoy positive relationships with staff who know them well. Children enjoy choosing who to spend time with. Children seek assurance from familiar adults to help them navigate any challenges they might face. Children say they enjoy living in the home.

Staff regularly seek children's views. Staff want to know how children would like to spend their time and what their interests are. Following school holidays, staff seek feedback to find out what children enjoyed or would like to be different about holiday activities in the future.

The safety of children

Children say that they feel safe in the home. They can identify someone who they would talk to if they had any worries. Because staff know children well, they manage the dynamics in the houses to best meet children's needs and ensure their safety.

Staff identify and respond to concerns as they arise in the home. The safeguarding lead maintains records of incidents. Information about safeguarding concerns is now available to staff meaning that they are better able to keep children safe. When children go missing, staff follow their plans and liaise with other agencies if necessary.

Restraint is used in this home. Leaders and managers meet regularly to review incidents of restraint with an aim to reduce the prevalence. These meetings explore children's needs. However, leaders and managers recognise that there are opportunities for further scrutiny of actions taken by staff during restraints.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

Leaders and managers have taken steps to develop systems of recording and monitoring in the home. These are in the process of being embedded. However, there has already been immediate positive impact from these developments. Staff can now share information easily, and quality assurance processes for managers have improved. Staff speak positively about working in the home. They say the improvements made to recording systems help them to do their jobs more effectively. This is because they now have access to relevant information about the children who they support.

Children receive support from knowledgeable and skilled staff. Staff receive regular supervision, which helps them to reflect on their practice. Leaders and managers have provided staff with training to promote the use of language which avoids institutional terms in the home.

All requirements made at the full inspection have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/11/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
03/11/2021	Full	Good
21/01/2020	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/02/2019	Full	Outstanding

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC030367

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Responsible individual: Jason Lukas

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Clare Nixon, Social Care Inspector
Kerry Fell, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
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