

SC032475

Registered provider: Trafford Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provider states in its statement of purpose that this home provides care for up to five children with social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in 2007 but is currently absent. The home is currently being managed by an acting manager.

Inspection dates: 6 and 7 December 2022

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 October 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/10/2021	Full	Good
21/01/2020	Full	Good
21/11/2018	Full	Outstanding
19/12/2017	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have strong and positive relationships with the staff who care for them. Children who have moved out routinely visit the home, and the staff speak fondly of their memories of them. Children value the relationships and the time that they live there.

Children are supported to attend education. Several of the children have now left school and they remain engaged in bespoke packages of education. Some children are also working; however, not all are receiving full-time hours. This results in children not always having structure and the opportunities to reach their full potential.

When children move in, it is in a planned way that is well thought out and they are supported sensitively. If children move in on an emergency basis, the impact on the children living there is reduced through open communication and a thorough matching process.

Staff consult with children with regards to their day-to-day activities. However, there are missed opportunities to gather children's views, wishes and feelings following incidents, the use of consequences or room searches. As a result, children are not always given the chance to reflect on and process situations.

Children's time with family is supported when this is part of their plan, and families are made to feel welcome at the home. Staff develop relationships with the carers of children's friends so that they can enjoy positive time with them and are safe when doing so.

Children are encouraged to develop their independence skills. Children have been supported to attend interviews for jobs and college and to apply for bank accounts and driving licences. Some children have been successful in obtaining a place on a scheme to prepare and support them to achieve in adulthood.

The home is large and is well furnished and decorated. However, maintenance of the grounds and building is not always addressed, and children's bedrooms are not as personalised and maintained as they should be.

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

Children's individual risk management plans are clear and updated regularly. When there are additional safeguards in place, staff are guided by thorough safety plans that are reviewed in multi-agency meetings. When children are at an increased risk, the excellent relationships between the staff and children mean that they happily remain in contact and adhere to plans.

Children have individual behaviour support plans and staff are skilled at de-escalation techniques. The use of restraint is rare. However, one incident was not correctly recorded or reviewed for the appropriateness of the measure.

Positive behaviour is supported and encouraged. Children have creative incentive plans which help them with their individual targets. Staff review these plans regularly for effectiveness and progress.

When children are missing from home, staff actively look for them and work with them and other professionals to reduce the risk of them going missing again. There has also been an improvement with how staff record these incidents and learn from them.

Children engage well with those from specialist services, including complex safeguarding and mental health services. The manager also ensures that children can speak with health and education professionals, which results in a holistic approach to their care.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is in the process of registering with Ofsted. The manager has developed systems that provide him with a thorough oversight of the progress of the children, staff and the home. However, the manager has not reviewed and evaluated records when consequences have been used or when children's rooms have been searched. This means that he has not had oversight of their effectiveness.

The manager has a good understanding of the strengths and areas of development of the care provided and these are reflected in thorough and reviewed development plans and quality of care reviews.

The manager is a good advocate for the children and has high aspirations for them. He understands the importance of multi-agency working and ensures that he prioritises attending any relevant meetings and reviews.

Staff say that they feel supported and listened to. However, supervision is not always used effectively by line managers. This means that not all staff are receiving support and guidance to review and reflect on their practice.

Staff have attended training appropriate to children's individual needs. This meets a requirement made at the last inspection.

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 children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's privacy will be respected and the circumstances when it may have to be limited. (Regulation 7 (1)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(v)) In particular, this relates to children receiving debriefs following incidents and being consulted if the need for searches of their room arises. This also includes children being consulted on the effectiveness of any consequences used. This further applies to consultation with children when they are away from the home and seeking their views, wishes and feelings on their plans.	19 January 2023
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—	19 January 2023

a description of the measure and its duration and within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(iv)(b)(i)(ii)) This particularly relates to incidents of restraint being recorded with a clear description of the measure and its duration. This also applies to the 'authorised person' being different to the 'user'.	
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Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children have a safe environment to live in and that maintenance issues are escalated appropriately. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 33, paragraph 7.3)
- The registered person should ensure that children are provided with appropriate furniture to store personal items, including any personal information. Children should be given a choice about how their personal space is decorated. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.19)
- The registered person should ensure that children are in full-time education, an apprenticeship or traineeship, or are combining full-time employment with part-time education or training. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 28, paragraph 5.16)
- The registered person should ensure that they have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional, which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)
- The registered person should ensure that all incidents of control, discipline and restraint are subject to systems of regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.36)

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: SC032475

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Trafford Council, Town Hall, Talbot Road,
Manchester, Trafford M32 0TH

Responsible individual: Sally Rimmer

Registered manager: Paul Maguire

Inspector

Kerri Lynch-Mahoney, Social Care Inspector

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