

SC032496

Registered provider: Trafford Borough Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a local authority and provides care for up to six children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in 2017.

Inspection date: 23 January 2023

Date of last inspection: 12 September 2022

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.

The care of children

Since the last inspection, four children have moved into the home and three children have moved on from the home and had planned and successful transitions. The manager has reduced the impact of these moves on children through open communication, good matching processes and being present to support children's moves.

All children are engaged in education in line with their individual plans.

Children's time with family is encouraged. Staff work hard to build relationships and support families for the benefit of the children.

The home is well decorated and resourced to meet the children's needs. Locks have been removed from internal doors. However, children are not always supported to keep their bedrooms clean.

Staff support children to engage in their care. For one child, who speaks English as an additional language, this has included the use of interpreters, technology and translation to ensure that their views, wishes and feelings are heard. However, room searches are not discussed with children and the reasons for these are not always clear.

The safety of children

There has been a significant reduction in the number of episodes of children going missing from home. Staff have worked with children and other professionals successfully to reduce these episodes, and the manager's oversight of records has improved.

Children have clear, regularly updated safety plans that staff follow and understand. Incidents are rare and there has been no use of restraint. This shows that children have positive relationships with the staff team and that the staff use de-escalation techniques successfully.

Safeguarding incidents have been appropriately managed, and managers have informed all relevant professionals. Staff are effective in using de-escalation techniques. This means that children are kept safe.

The use of positive consequences and incentives outweighs the use of negative consequences. However, managers do not always review the effectiveness of the measures used.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The manager is suitably experienced. Staff say that they feel supported. Supervision sessions are detailed and include clear action plans with timescales for completion. Staff have received training in missing-from-care procedures, and the manager has sourced life-story work training for the team which will take place over the coming months. This means that staff have the skills needed to support children's individual needs effectively.

The manager's consistent use of systems to monitor the home has improved her oversight and planning. Previous requirements and recommendations have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/09/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/06/2022	Full	Inadequate
20/01/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
27/07/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that a child's room is only searched if the child has been informed or asked for their permission. Immediate searching may be necessary where there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is a risk to the child's or another person's safety or well-being. Entering a child's room may also be necessary to allow it to be cleaned. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 17, paragraph 3.20)
- 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 and that the principles as set out in 9.35 are respected. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.36)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC032496

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Trafford Borough Council

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

Responsible individual: Sally Rimmer

Registered manager: Alicia Cooper

Inspector

Kerri Lynch-Mahoney, Social Care Inspector

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