

SC042978

Registered provider: Lincolnshire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a local authority. It provides care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties and or have a learning disability.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2024.

Inspection dates: 4 and 5 March 2025

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: 25 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/03/2024	Full	Good
09/11/2021	Full	Outstanding
06/01/2020	Full	Outstanding
09/10/2018	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Both children were spoken to as part of this inspection. They said they liked living in the home and have positive relationships with staff. Children's needs are understood by staff, who have a detailed knowledge of each child. Children feel a sense of permanence while living here and have many positive experiences such as swimming, playing football and going to watch shows.

Children's communication needs are clearly understood and adapted to meet their individual needs. This supports all children to take part in day-to-day activities as well as share their thoughts and wishes. Children are supported to understand any limitations in meeting their requests, such as curfews to promote safety.

All children are part of educational settings, and their attendance has improved. All staff are ambitious for the children, listening to their worries and finding ways to adapt transport to encourage greater attendance. Staff have very good relationships with all educational settings and can advocate for the children. One professional said, 'Where there have been any concerns, there have been professional challenges which are courteous and collaborative to find a solution.'

Children's health is prioritised. Where children have additional and complex health needs, there are regular reviews. Staff seek additional support from specialist professionals to adapt care plans for the children. There are clear and effective lines of communication between health professionals and staff, which have resulted in positive health experiences.

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

Allegations are handled effectively. The relevant agencies are involved in any investigation. When this is a known risk for a child, increased support plans and leadership oversight have been introduced. Support for all those involved in such processes is well documented.

There are effective working relationships with the fire and police services. This has protected children from unnecessary involvement with the criminal justice system through an educational and restorative approach.

When significant incidents occur, they are recorded well. There is management oversight and review of all incidents. Children's views are clearly captured and responded to through feedback. There have been a high number of incidents during this period, managed well by the staff team with a safe and supportive approach.

Staff receive training in safe practice for physical restraint. All recordings are detailed. Children and staff receive supportive conversations with managers having oversight of all

interventions. However, on one occasion, holds have been undertaken outside of the training methods and without the required staffing levels.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has a very clear plan for the home, the children and the development of the staff team. The manager recognises the challenges that the staff have faced in terms of staff retention and recruitment. However, with a stable staff team now in place, there are clear plans to progress skills and knowledge in line with the individual needs of each child.

The workforce is relatively new. Staff report a thorough and comprehensive induction period. New employees are given the opportunity to shadow more experienced staff and have time to get to know the children. Staff recognise the high level of support that they receive from managers. One professional said, 'The manager is the epicentre that holds everything together.'

Staff training is comprehensive. It is continually reviewed and adapted to meet the changing needs of the children who live here.

There is clear consultation with children, staff, family members and professionals. The manager uses different methods of obtaining feedback. This is then embedded in the development plan and manager audits.

Supervision is a reflective and supportive space for staff. Recording of discussions is clear. Where practice concerns are identified, performance plans are created and monitored and reviewed in partnership with the staff member.

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 20 (2))	30 April 2025
In particular, staff must ensure that any practice of restraint is in accordance with the home's restraint policy.	

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: SC042978

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lincolnshire County Council

Registered provider address: County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL

Responsible individual: Tara Jones

Registered manager: Helen Wallis

Inspector

Rachel Moore, Social Care Inspector

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