

SC056259

Registered provider: Pebbles Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation. The home provides care and accommodation for up to six children who may have social and emotional needs. The manager has been registered with Ofsted since December 2021.

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

Inspection dates: 24 and 25 January 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 11 January 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/01/2022	Full	Good
06/03/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
15/10/2019	Full	Good
05/11/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

The experiences of children living in the home are variable. At times, some children have made progress, but this has not been the experience of all children. All of the children have recently expressed a wish to live elsewhere. Some children have said that they do not always feel safe.

One of the children has not been in any form of education for almost a year. The majority of staff have failed to develop trusting relationships with the child. The child frequently sleeps during the day and is awake throughout the night, and this routine has been accepted by some staff. The registered manager has attended multi-agency meetings to support the child to return to education. However, this has not happened and the child has lost valuable time to learn and develop skills because of the length of time they have been out of education. The child's social worker and the registered manager both agree that the home is no longer meeting the child's needs.

Other children have built trusting relationships with the staff. They talk openly to the staff about challenges they face. These children have learned to express their emotions appropriately with the staff. This helps prepare them for managing future relationships with others.

The registered manager promotes regular and meaningful time between the children and their families and loved ones. Professionals value the registered manager driving this forward. For some children, this has built positive relationships with family members and has helped them to plan for their future adult life.

The home is clean, warm and homely. The lounge area has recently been decorated with a contemporary feel and new carpets have been fitted through areas of the house. The home has a welcoming and nurturing feel about it.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Some children have said that they do not always feel safe living in the home and want to move and live elsewhere. The staff fail to manage the language and behaviour of one child, and this has a detrimental effect on the other children living in the home. This situation is largely managed by supporting children to spend time away from one another. This does not support children to manage their relationships, nor address feelings around their well-being and security.

Medication in the home is not stored safely or securely. Keys were left in the medication cabinet and a child accessed medication that could have been harmful to

them. Thankfully, this was averted. The registered manager has since reviewed the systems for safe storage of medication.

Fire extinguishers are not stored safely in accordance with the home's fire risk assessment. This leaves children and staff at significant risk if there was to be a fire, especially during the night. The registered manager responded to make a temporary plan when this was raised.

Risk assessments capture current risks to children. The manager reviews these regularly and particularly after any incident. These are shared with the team and are reinforced by input from the psychologist in the organisation.

Children and young people are rarely held for their own safety and that of others. When a physical intervention is needed, the registered manager and staff reflect on what happened leading to the incident and what happened afterwards. Lessons are learned and children's voices and opinions are listened to. This helps children to build and maintain positive relationships with their peers and staff.

Children rarely go missing from home. There has been one incident since the last inspection and this was managed appropriately. Lessons were learned from the incident in order to reduce the likelihood of a reoccurrence.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

All staff are up to date with mandatory training and have had specialist training to help meet the differing individual needs of children. Staff describe the therapeutic training they have received as supportive and effective with the children. They report seeing a difference in one child and young adult and how they respond to a more therapeutic approach.

Staff receive regular supervision and appraisals. Staff said that they feel well supported by the registered manager, and the training they receive equips them with the skills and knowledge to support them in their roles.

Team meetings are regular and well attended. They are child-focused and cover areas for development. Team meetings are used to keep staff informed, and to give staff an opportunity to contribute to the support of the children and development of the care provided in the home.

The manager is described as 'proactive' by professionals. One professional said that difficult situations are handled sensitively by the registered manager. The registered manager uses reflection with the staff to learn from incidents, to prevent them happening in future. This helps to create a reflective learning environment.

Not all staff have completed the mandatory diploma qualification within the required timescales. This requirement was made at the last inspection. The requirement has not been met and has therefore been restated.

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, 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
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c)) In particular, that the registered manager works with the virtual school head to ensure that each child receives suitable and appropriate education.	31 March 2023
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; and that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(iv)(b)) In particular, that medication is stored safely in accordance with the policy. Also, that staff support the children to feel safe from bullying from other children.	31 March 2023
After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must—	25 March 2023

take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of suitable fire equipment in the children's home. (Regulation 25 (1)(a)) In particular, that fire extinguishers are available to use in all parts of the building in case there is a fire in the home.	
For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home; or in the case of an individual who was working in a care role in a home on 1st April 2014, 1st April 2016. The registered person may defer the relevant date if the individual— does not work, or has not worked, in a care role in a home for a prolonged period; or works, or has worked, in a care role in a home on a part-time basis. (Regulation 32 (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)(b) (6)(a)(b))	31 March 2023

Information about this inspection

The Inspector has 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: SC056259

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Pebbles Care Limited

Registered provider address: 2 The Calls, Leeds LS2 7JU

Responsible individual: David Hitchen

Registered manager: Rebecca Wilson

Inspector

Carol Jagger, Social Care Inspector

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