

SC064663

Registered provider: Eastfield Group

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private provider. It is registered to provide care for up to seven children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, six children were living in the home. All children were seen by inspectors, and three children spoke with the inspectors about their experiences living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2023.

This inspection was carried out to address specific concerns or allegations received by Ofsted.

Inspection date: 5 November 2024

Date of last inspection: 13 May 2024

Judgement at last inspection: 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.

Since the last inspection, four children have moved into the home and four children have moved out. Where possible, children have been supported to move into and out of the home in a planned way. Before children move into the home, their needs are considered alongside the needs of children already living in the home. However, two children have had to move on from the home when it has been identified that their needs could not be safely met alongside the needs of the other children.

Children say that they feel happy and safe living in the home. One child said, 'Staff are fair, the rules are fair. I think it is the best place I could be. I have a great bond with them all and I couldn't ask to live anywhere better.' Another child said, 'They are all brilliant. It is an amazing place to live; they help me so much.'

The home is large and spacious, and children are helped to decorate their rooms to reflect their individual tastes. However, some areas of the home appear tired and are in need of redecoration, and some furniture and flooring in communal areas are in need of replacement or repair. This detracts from the homely environment and is something that the responsible individual is taking action to address.

Children are safeguarded effectively. The team is supporting one child through a traumatic life event and bereavement. During this time, staff ensure that the child's needs remain at the centre of their practice. The child's social worker is highly complimentary about the care and support provided and the progress the child is making.

Children's risks are well understood. Risk plans are updated, and concerns are appropriately escalated to the relevant safeguarding professionals. However, behaviour management in the home is not always effective, and there have been a number of occasions when the police have been called to manage children's behaviour. This is not only distressing for children but has the potential for them to be criminalised. Evaluation of incidents by managers is limited, and opportunities to identify any learning from incidents to further develop practice in the home have been missed.

Children, staff and other professionals are highly complimentary about the support provided by managers. Any concerns regarding staff practice are appropriately raised and addressed. Team meetings and supervision sessions provide opportunities for staff to explore issues.

Staff have completed training relevant to the needs of the children in their care. However, training records are not up to date, and it is not always clear which staff have completed training.

Discrepancies in records identified during the inspection were swiftly addressed by managers. However, not all records are written in ways that are helpful for children or staff. A risk plan for one child, who has recently moved on from the home, was not accessible during the inspection.

The manager's review of the quality of care report had not been submitted to Ofsted since the last inspection, and progress in this area could not be monitored. The requirement made at the last inspection in relation to this will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/05/2024	Full	Good
05/03/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
02/08/2022	Full	Good
15/03/2022	Full	Good

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 registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality-of-care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality-of-care review is completed; and make a copy of the quality-of-care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home. (Regulation 45 (1) (4)(a)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that the report is sent to the regulator within 28 days of completion. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 December 2024
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— treat each child with dignity and respect;	31 January 2025

provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need on order to live their comfortably; ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(iii)(vii)(c)(i)(ii)) In particular, ensure that the home is decorated and furnished to a high standard throughout, that all floor coverings are well maintained and free from hazards and that any damaged or worn furniture is replaced in a timely manner.	
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out — how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must keep the behaviour management policy under review and, where appropriate, revise it. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (2)) In particular, ensure that behaviour management strategies support staff to respond to children's individual behaviours effectively and do not result in unnecessary police involvement in managing behaviours in the home.	31 January 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff training records are kept up to date and are a comprehensive record of training completed. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.8)
- The registered person should ensure that electronic records are accessible. Planning should be in place to prevent loss or damage to them. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 14.2)

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. In addition, managers and staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC064663

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Eastfield Group

Registered provider address: 6d Ryeground House, 6b Ryeground Lane, Formby, Merseyside L37 7EQ

Responsible individual: Ivy Thompson

Registered manager: Claire Turner

Inspectors

Caroline Bertram, Regulatory Inspection Manager
Kelly McCurdy, Social Care Inspector

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