

SC064663

Registered provider: Eastfield Group

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private organisation. It provides care for up to seven children who may experience social or emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2023.

At the time of the inspection, there were six children living in the home. Four children spoke to the inspectors about their experiences living in the home.

Inspection dates: 13 and 14 May 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 5 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/03/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
02/08/2022	Full	Good
15/03/2022	Full	Good
26/10/2021	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children say that they are happy and like living in the home. They make good progress in all areas of their lives and are supported to develop positive relationships with staff, who know them well. External professionals who work with the children are complimentary about the care provided by the team.

The home is large and well furnished. The children's bedrooms are decorated nicely and reflect their individual personalities. The home is well maintained, with a large garden that provides children with a safe space where they can relax and spend time.

Children's health needs are well supported. All children are in good health and are registered with relevant health professionals. Staff ensure that children are up to date with immunisations. They also engage other professionals to ensure that they have the necessary support in place to meet a child's health needs. Older children are supported to access specialist services, enabling them to develop their understanding and awareness around their sexual health.

Children's identities are well supported. Festivals related to the children's different faiths are celebrated with sensitivity. During Ramadan, staff were available at specific times of the day and night to enable children to participate and actively celebrate. This demonstrates respect for different faiths and cultures and helps children to feel valued.

All children are helped to attend education and are making progress. Some children are in school and others at college, with bespoke packages of education. Staff attend meetings with education staff and the headteacher of the virtual school and are clear about children's plans. This enables children to feel supported and helps them to achieve their academic potential.

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

Children say that they feel safe living in the home. Staff spend quality time developing relationships with children, to help them feel safe and secure in the home. Consequently, children are able to talk to staff about things that are important to them.

Children benefit from key-work sessions delivered by staff that cover a range of subjects, including relationships, sexual and mental health and aspirations. Children understand these sessions well and say that they help them. Records of the sessions are translated into the children's first languages, enabling them to read back what they have discussed.

Since the last inspection, improvements to children's risk management plans mean that plans now include children's known and presenting risks and provide clear actions and strategies for staff to follow to reduce risks. When concerns arise, children's plans are updated to ensure that all staff are informed of the current issues and how best to support children.

Staff are good advocates for children. They recently supported one child, who has moved to the UK, to understand why they had been stopped by the police. The team sensitively supported the child, educated them on the issues that were relevant and advocated for them with the police.

Changes to behaviour management strategies mean that they are child-centred and consistent. Work is being done with children to ensure that they understand the risks associated with charging mobile phones overnight. Children have responded well to this and are being helped to make safer choices.

Children rarely go missing from this home. When incidents do occur, staff know how to respond and proactively encourage children to return safely. Children's missing-from-home plans are specific to them and staff understand the procedures well.

The home has enough staff to meet the needs of the children and casual staff are not used. New staff are introduced to the home well and given a full induction. However, leaders and managers have not completed robust reference checks for one member of staff. Although this has not directly impacted on children, it limits management oversight and reduces opportunities to ensure that only staff who are suitable to work with children are employed in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is suitably skilled and experienced. She is supported by a deputy manager and responsible individual. They work together to promote a positive, welcoming environment and are committed to delivering good-quality care to children.

Staff benefit from regular supervision sessions delivered by the manager, deputy or senior staff. These supervision sessions enable staff to reflect on their work with children and to receive feedback on their practice. Personal development is discussed and appraisals are clear. The registered manager also receives good-quality supervision and support from the responsible individual.

Staff have access to mandatory and bespoke training to further develop their knowledge and understanding about children's experiences and are able to meet their needs. Staff have benefited from completing training to meet the needs of children who are unaccompanied.

Staff feel well supported and are positive about the management team. They say that the manager is readily available to provide advice and guidance. The manager

is making changes to ensure that she is able to balance the competing demands of her role effectively.

Leaders and managers have been proactive in taking action to address recording shortfalls identified at the last inspection. Each child's journey and the progress they make is now clearly recorded in high-quality plans. Reports and plans are translated into the children's first languages and interpreters are used when required to ensure that children are supported to understand their plans.

The manager has completed the home's quality of care report to review children's experiences. However, this has not been sent to Ofsted in line with regulation. This limits the regulator's oversight of the home. This was a requirement at the last inspection and is restated.

Six requirements and two recommendations made at the previous inspection have been met. One requirement has not been met and is restated.

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. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— 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.	9 July 2024
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children's home; or if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that—	9 July 2024

the individual is of integrity and good character;

the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform;

the individual is mentally and physically fit for the purposes of the work that the individual is to perform; and

full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(a)(b)(c)(d))

In particular, the registered person must ensure that references for new staff are taken up and if references are not obtained, the risk is assessed and recorded.

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: 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

Colin Jones, Social Care Inspector

Zillah Brooks, Social Care Inspector

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