

SC064666

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a private organisation. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two children who may have emotional and/or social difficulties. One child was living at the home during this inspection.

The registered manager post has been vacant since May 2020. A manager has been appointed and is in post, he has not yet applied to be registered with Ofsted.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

Inspection dates: 26 to 27 May 2021

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

How well children and young people are helped and protected **requires improvement to be 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: 23 July 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/07/2019	Full	Good
07/06/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/06/2017	Full	Good
07/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Currently, there is only one child living at the home. They have lived there since October 2020. The child said that they enjoy living at the home. The relationships between staff and the child are positive. The child said, 'The staff here fight for me. They are caring, and they check in with me. There is nothing not to like. It's calm, chilled out and there's nothing to worry about.'

The child benefits from well-planned, personalised care that promotes their needs effectively and contributes to change and improvement in their life. Staff provide the child with continuity of care that promotes consistency and stability in their life.

The child is registered with local health services. Staff take the child to their health appointments and encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle. Medical consent is in place and staff are familiar with the health decisions and responsibilities that are delegated to them. Staff ensure that children's medication is stored and administered safely.

Following the easing of the government's restrictions, the home is now able to promote more activities for the child in the local community. They have recently enjoyed going to a laser game and the cinema, and say that they enjoy helping staff with cooking in the home.

Staff promote family time, in keeping with the child's plans and wishes. This ensures that the child has regular contact with the people who are important to them. The child is making good progress and is engaged in therapy, which promotes and supports their emotional well-being.

Since living at the home, the child's educational attendance has improved. Previously, there had been some exclusions from education. Staff supported the child to return to education after these periods of exclusion. Staff work well with the child's education placement to promote regular school attendance, achievements and learning.

The child's social worker said, '[child's name] is doing really well, and they are quite settled at the moment. The home has managed his difficult behaviours well. He is now going to school more frequently.'

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

The behaviours of the child are managed safely and effectively. Staff are trained in the home's behaviour management approach and are effective in dealing with the child's presenting behaviours. The use of restraint is rare and is only ever used to prevent the child from suffering harm.

Staff promote positive behaviour and apply consistent rules and boundaries for the child's safety. The child is learning to self-regulate their feelings and behaviours safely. They are learning how to resolve conflicts more positively without behaviours escalating. The use of sanctions is fair, balanced and proportionate. The child said, 'I like it here because there's structure and it's strict. There are just more rules here and that's good. In my last placement I could do whatever I wanted.'

There are no issues with offending, drug use or incidents of going missing. Self-harmful behaviours have reduced and there is evidence of improvement in the child's behaviour. The child's social worker said, 'There are no issues with going missing or drug use.'

Significant incidents are shared with the appropriate authorities to keep children safe. In April 2021, there was an incident when a child entered another child's bedroom in the early hours of the morning, resulting in sexual activity between children. An internal investigation identified that staff did not respond to the children's bedroom door alarms. The provider has taken appropriate action following this incident to prevent further occurrences of children being in each other's bedrooms. The home is currently being used as a solo occupancy home.

Risk impact assessments do not include the manager's discussions with the people involved in the child's care. This does not promote effective decision-making, in terms of the suitability and compatibility of children's placements.

The home requires minor improvements in some of the living areas to ensure that the house is well maintained. The staff team has started to plan the colour schemes but the work has not yet commenced.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

A new manager has been employed since the last inspection. He is currently in the process of completing his registration application with Ofsted and is working towards his diploma level 5 in leadership and management. The manager is supported by an experienced deputy manager. Both managers demonstrate strong and effective leadership of the day-to-day operations of the home.

A diverse staff team is employed to meet the specific needs of children. Staff are well supported and benefit from regular, effective supervision which encourages them to reflect on their performance and practice. The manager is professionally supervised by the responsible individual.

Staff confirm leaders and managers are supportive of practice and are knowledgeable and understanding of the child's needs and the needs of the home. A social worker said, 'We are very happy with the placement and work together well.'

The performance of the home is scrutinised effectively. The home is visited by an independent professional who reviews the quality of the children's care and the

arrangements to promote children's safety and well-being. These visits help the manager to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the home. Combined with the manager's own internal monitoring activities, there are effective arrangements to secure the home's continuing improvement.

The requirements and recommendations from the last inspection are met.

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the 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— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; protect and promote each child's welfare. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)) This relates specifically to staff adhering to the home's policy on the use of bedroom door alarms.	8 June 2021
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the 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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—	28 June 2021

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)(c)(i)(ii)) This relates specifically to the improved furnishing and redecoration of the home.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children’s home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home’s statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)) This relates specifically to risk impact assessments, including the outcome of consultations held by the manager with relevant professionals to inform the home’s decision-making, including what contact was made with the child, social worker and previous carers.	28 June 2021

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: SC064666

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: Cambian Childcare Limited, 5th Floor, Metropolitan House, 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AG

Responsible individual: Leanne Woodings

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Anthony Kyem, Social Care Inspector

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