

SC065378

Registered provider: Castle Homes Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. It provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in September 2023 and is suitably qualified.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home. Both spoke with the inspector.

The inspector only inspected the social care provision at this site.

Inspection dates: 7 and 8 October 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: 12 November 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/12/2024	Full	Good
08/03/2024	Full	Good
14/02/2023	Full	Good
28/07/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children enjoy positive relationships with the adults who care for them, and describe staff as positive mentors who are caring and loving. The children are settled and are looking forward to what the future holds for them. Because of the support of staff, children believe that they can achieve their aspirations and dreams.

One child has moved out of the home since the last inspection. The move was thoughtfully planned, and the child was helped to develop good independence skills in preparation. Outreach support from staff is helping the child to settle into their new home.

The manager and staff work well with teachers, social workers and reviewing officers. This helps them to understand the children's lived experiences, trauma and how to meet their needs. All children have made progress from their starting points, including meeting their individual education targets. Two children have achieved the necessary qualifications to access their chosen college courses.

The staff encourage children to lead healthy lifestyles. Children enjoy nutritious meals and staff encourage them to participate in various sporting activities to promote their physical and emotional well-being. Staff mostly support children to attend their scheduled health appointments. However, on one occasion, a recommendation from a child's health assessment was not responded to promptly.

Children have opportunities to express their wishes and feelings in various ways including spending quality time with staff, contributing to meetings about the plans for their care and through children's meetings. This ensures that children are involved in making decisions about their day-to-day care.

Children have access to various activities at the home and within the community. They have enjoyed playing basketball in the garden, riding their bicycles, going to the gym, cinema trips, sleepovers at friends and friends coming over for tea.

The home is mostly warm and welcoming. However, there are some areas including the dining area which need redecorating. The manager has a plan to address this shortfall.

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

The children have lived at the home for a significant period and staff know them well. Children benefit from consistent routines and boundaries. Because of the relationships staff have with children, they can identify and de-escalate situations quickly. As a result, incidents are few.

On the rare occasions when there has been a safeguarding incident, for example a child being missing, the manager and staff have followed safeguarding procedures and have worked in collaboration with other professionals to formulate safety plans to keep the child safe.

Children's plans are kept up to date and give staff clear, step-by-step guidance about how to support the child. Individual work with staff, which includes reflection, helps children to understand appropriate behaviour. Staff reinforce children's positive behaviour by giving them positive praise and writing positive affirmations to them daily.

The registered manager implements safer recruitment processes. This means that the suitability of staff to work with children is assessed prior to them working in the home.

Although the manager reviews the locality risk assessment annually, he has not consulted partner agencies to satisfy himself that all known risks or local amenities have been considered. This is particularly important, given that one child goes into the community independently as part of their plans.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is a dedicated and experienced leader and has effective monitoring and reviewing systems in place. Consequently, he is aware of the areas of strength and areas that need development.

The children speak highly of the registered manager and believe that he has their best interests at heart. He is a positive role model and invests in developing staff through providing opportunities for them to increase their understanding and skills. For example, some staff are enrolled on management courses.

Children benefit from a stable staff team. Staff enjoy caring for the children and say that they feel listened to and valued by the registered manager. Staff have received a range of training that helps them to understand the children's needs.

External professionals report that there are effective working relationships with staff. Communication is reported to be very good. This helps to ensure that the wider team around the child provides the right support.

The registered manager and staff champion equality and diversity. Workshops with the children help them to understand, respect and celebrate differences in religion, culture, race and sexual orientation. This supports the children to feel settled in the diverse community where the home is located.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home meets children's basic day-to-day needs and physical necessities. In particular, the registered person should ensure that recommendations from children's health assessments are addressed promptly and that areas of the home are redecorated in keeping with plans. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.7)
- The registered person should ensure that the home is suitably located so that children are effectively safeguarded and can access services to meet needs identified in their relevant plans (see regulations 12(2)(c)). Under regulation 46, the registered person should review the appropriateness and suitability of the location and premises of the home at least once a year. The review should include the identification of any risks and opportunities presented by the home's location and strategies for managing these. Specifically, the registered person should consult partner agencies to inform the location risk assessment. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.1)

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: SC065378

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Castle Homes Care Limited

Registered provider address: 2 Barton Close, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester
LE19 1SJ

Responsible individual: Paula Welsh

Registered manager: Daniel Donaldson

Inspector

Rumbi Mangoma, Ofsted Inspector

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