

SC065789

Registered provider: Good Foundations Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home provides care for up to three children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2024.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 September 2024

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: 5 April 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/04/2022	Full	Good
09/02/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
20/08/2019	Full	Good
07/02/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Three children were living in the home at the time of the inspection. The children have been involved in decisions about how the home is decorated and they have personalised their bedrooms. Children enjoy living in their home. They feel supported by the staff team. One child said, 'I love the staff because they love me.'

All children attend full-time mainstream education. From their starting points, they have all made progress in education. Staff support and encourage the children to read and complete their homework together. The manager and staff are effective in their communication with education professionals. When incidents have occurred, such as bullying or rivalry in school, residential and school staff have worked together to resolve issues.

Staff support children to develop new interests and hobbies. Children enjoy doing activities together, such as swimming, and going to parks and the beach. Staff also encourage children to pursue their individual interests. All the children have their own hobbies, such as golf, gymnastics, and football. When children take part in a team activity such as football or a school performance, the staff attend to support the children.

Children are in good health and regularly attend medical appointments. Staff are aware of children's individual health needs and work with partner agencies to ensure that children's health and emotional well-being are supported.

The day-to-day plans in the home are arranged with the children. The children are encouraged to make choices about what meals they would like and what activities they want to do. As a result, the children feel listened to.

Staff help children to understand their behaviour. However, on occasions, the staff response to children is punitive and does not show sensitivity.

Family members are welcomed into the home. Staff respect children's relationships with those people who are important to them and advocate on their behalf for them to maintain existing relationships. Staff support the children's siblings and provide practical support, such as taking them on days out.

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

Staff understand children's risks and vulnerabilities. They work together as a team to keep children safe. Staff have positive relationships with children. They make themselves available to talk to children if they are worried or upset. This provides children with emotional support when required.

Staff understand underlying factors that impact on children's behaviour. Behaviour management strategies are child-centred and include techniques such as reassurance, listening to the children and occupying them with an activity. These measures are agreed in consultation with children. As a result, children are supported in times of distress, in line with their wishes.

When children are in crisis and become upset or struggle with their emotions, staff are skilled in helping children to understand their feelings. As a result, there have been no incidents where children have been restrained.

Risk assessments provide strategies for the staff to ensure the children are kept safe. There have only been a few incidents since the children went to live at the home.

The manager and the staff have advocated for the children to attend a community youth group. The staff ensured that a robust risk assessment was in place before the children attended. This allows the children to maintain positive experiences of places that mean something to them, in a safe and supported way.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

A suitably qualified and experienced manager manages the home. A deputy manager supports the manager. Together, they lead the home and the staff team in a child-focused way. They both speak highly of the children.

Partner agencies are consistently positive about their experience of working with the managers and staff. They describe communication as good and are complimentary about the progress children make. One professional said they 'couldn't be happier for the children.'

There are clear plans in place for children. The plans reflect the children's needs and the plans of the local authority. The manager regularly reviews the children's plans and updates them with current information. However, children do not benefit from education plans, which limits the manager in being able to effectively evidence children's progress. The manager had identified this before the inspection and has a plan to address this.

Children's case records are not always consistent, and information is not always accurate. This fails to provide clarity for children.

The children are cared for by a consistent and stable staff team. The manager follows safe recruitment practice, to ensure only suitable adults work with children. Staff speak highly of the home. They enjoy working in the home and feel well supported by managers, senior managers, and their colleagues.

Supervisions and team meetings take place on a regular basis and are well attended by the staff team. These allow staff to reflect on their practice and consider the quality of care the children receive. When there are issues with staff practice, the manager quickly addresses this and ensures development opportunities are in place.

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 maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))	7 November 2024

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that measurements of progress include qualitative information such as how well the child is being prepared for their next stage of education. Other metrics can also be taken into account, such as rewards and recognition of achievements, improvements in attendance and, where appropriate, reduction in behavioural incidents, including exclusion. The child's personal circumstances, individual needs and educational history are relevant in considering ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 26, paragraph 5.2)

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: SC065789

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Good Foundations Limited

Registered provider address: 6 Tower Quays, Tower Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside CH41 1BP

Responsible individual: Andrew Mannix

Registered manager: Gillian Jones

Inspector

Nicola Rutherford, Social Care Inspector

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