

SC066120

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a local authority. The home is registered to provide care for up to five children who have learning disabilities, which may also include physical disabilities and/or sensory impairment.

Children who live at the home have a long-term residential care plan.

The experienced manager was registered with Ofsted in November 2018.

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: 28 and 29 June 2021

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 3 October 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/10/2018	Full	Outstanding
08/01/2018	Full	Outstanding
13/03/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness
05/01/2017	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

The children make excellent progress in all areas of their development. They are very well supported by staff, who have high aspirations and treat them with unconditional positive regard. The ethos of the home is to provide a warm and welcoming environment that supports and promotes positive outcomes, and this is something that the whole team embraces.

Children have trusted and well-established relationships with the staff, who know the children well. Staff work in partnership with professionals and families to provide the children with outstanding care. Evidence gathered at this inspection highlights that the children are thriving in all aspects of their lives.

All the children have great school attendance and are doing exceptionally well. Staff work closely with schools and special educational needs teams to ensure that children can reach their full potential.

The children's complex health and developmental needs are supported effectively by staff. When needed, children have access to general practitioners, consultants, dieticians, child and adolescent mental health services, occupational therapists and school nurses. This collaborative approach ensures that the children's health and developmental needs are consistently reviewed and met.

Staff are dedicated and resourceful. They use research and reflective practice sessions to support them in providing the children with a high level of consistent care. The use of research-informed practice better enables staff to understand and respond to the complex needs of the children.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the children were supported to engage in a range of fun activities in the home. These include themed nights, birthday parties, award nights, makeovers and photo shoots. These have been captured for children in personalised journals and on video. This helps to create and store positive memories in an accessible format for the children.

The children have regular opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings. Staff use a range of communication tools to help children to fully express their views about activities, what they would like to eat, their likes and dislikes. As a result, the children feel valued and their self-confidence is much improved.

Staff support the children to be as independent as they can be. Children are encouraged to develop their social skills and experience the world. One child was recently supported to attend the hairdresser for the first time in her life. Staff prepared her for the visit and ensured that the experience was a positive one.

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

There are robust risk assessments and individual crisis management plans in place to meet the needs of each individual child. These assessments and plans are reviewed routinely by the manager and senior staff. This ensures that the children's needs are well understood and that staff are able to better protect the children.

Staff have a thorough understanding of the children's needs and vulnerabilities. This means that they are better able to manage challenging situations. They understand the children's triggers and know what is effective in managing their anxieties.

Staff provide the children with consistent structure, routines and boundaries, and use their in-depth knowledge and skill to help the children emotionally regulate when they are in crisis. As a result, there are low levels of physical restraint and the children have become less anxious.

Robust impact assessments are in place and the compatibility of the children is carefully assessed from the outset. This helps to ensure that the children who come into the home have a positive transition, quickly settle, and develop positive peer relationships with the other children.

Staff are supported to develop their practice by attending specialist training. This includes training on how to safely use recovery medication and autism spectrum disorder awareness. This helps to support staff in their roles and helps them to better protect the children.

Professionals told the inspector that the manager and staff respond effectively to safeguard children. Professionals said that the manager and staff stringently follow procedures to ensure that children are safeguarded.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The manager of the home is committed and is aspirational for the children. She is extremely experienced and enthusiastic and has children at the very centre of everything she does. This enthusiasm cascades throughout the staff team.

Learning and development constitute a key strength of the home. The manager takes every opportunity to develop staff skills. This creates confidence and forward-thinking practice throughout the staff team. Regular team meetings, daily handovers and reflective supervision also help to support staff in providing the children with a high level of individualised care.

Staff are extremely positive about working at the home. They told the inspector that they are well supported by the manager and the seniors and that team morale is fantastic. This helps to create a culture in which everyone is motivated in their roles and want the very best for children.

The manager works in partnership with professionals and will challenge and advocate on behalf of the children to ensure that their plans progress. For example, she has supported staff in advocating for a child who wishes for changes to her care plan. The manager has raised this in reviews and also ensured that the child has an independent advocate. This means that the child has been able to fully share and express her views.

The manager has excellent management oversight of the home. She uses monthly audits and quality assurance visits to help raise standards. The manager understands the home's strengths and weaknesses exceptionally well. She is consistently ambitious and energetic about sustaining the home's continuing improvement. This results in an outstanding, high-quality service for children.

Professionals say that the manager and the staff are amazing and provide lots of positive experiences for the children, who benefit from the consistency of the positive, nurturing care that they receive.

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: SC066120

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Leeds City Council, Civic Hall, Calverley Street,
Leeds LS1 1UR

Responsible individual: Joel Hanna

Registered manager: Aasia Hussain

Inspector

Noel Cooper, Social Care Inspector

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