

SC066129

Registered provider: Fairport Care Services Ltd

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 five children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 16 July 2020 and is suitably qualified.

At the time of this inspection, there were four children and one young adult living in the home.

Inspection dates: 28 and 29 August 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: 17 October 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/10/2023	Full	Outstanding
14/02/2023	Full	Outstanding
26/05/2021	Full	Good
12/02/2020	Interim	Improved effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children benefit from a stable and experienced staff team. Staff understand children's needs and have a nurturing approach, which supports effective and positive relationship-building. The children value relationships with dedicated members of staff and with the senior management team.

Children are making educational progress. Plans for children to access education are individualised. Staff ensure that clear boundaries are maintained and support children to maintain normal educational routines. One child has been supported to recently sit and pass their GCSEs. Staff celebrate children's achievements. They work with children at their own pace and gradually introduce skills for independent living through the day-to-day running of the house.

The manager and staff team support children to maintain positive relationships with their family members and the people who are important to them. The children's families speak highly of the care and support provided to their children and feel part of their children's care.

Children are healthy, and their health needs are responded to and appropriately met. They are encouraged to eat a varied and balanced diet. They are also provided with regular meetings with a qualified therapist to help them process some of their experiences.

The house is well maintained and decorated to a high standard. It is warm and welcoming and has a homely feel. Children personalise their bedrooms, and these reflect their individuality. Outside spaces are large and well maintained and provide various areas for the children to play and enjoy.

Staffing levels are high, which means that children can engage in dedicated time with staff as well as group activities. However, children have limited contact with the wider community. Consequently, they have fewer opportunities for socialising with peers and building new friendships locally.

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

The registered manager ensures that any safeguarding concerns are responded to swiftly and efficiently by all staff. Staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding processes. Staff understand the children and their vulnerabilities, and they keep children safe and regularly assess risk. One child stated, 'It is the safest that I have ever felt.'

Staff use physical intervention on occasion to keep children safe. Staff are trained in de-escalation and physical intervention. Children and staff are offered the opportunity

to have a debrief following any incidents. Children are supported to reflect on these incidents and repair any ruptures in relationships.

Children's missing-from-home episodes have reduced due to the manager and staff's consistent responses to these. Consequently, children rarely go missing. When they do, other professionals and family members are kept well informed.

The manager has ensured that staff and children understand diversity and celebrate difference. The manager has employed a diverse staff team and sourced specialist training for staff around the needs of individual children.

Children have a good understanding of the complaints process and know how to make a complaint. Children have access to external independent advocacy services to support them to have their voices heard. One child has been supported to maintain a relationship with an advocate for over nine years. The children are all encouraged to share their thoughts and views through regular house meetings. However, on occasion, children share some inappropriate information in these forums.

Managers have safer recruitment processes in place, which are generally effective. However, on one occasion, gaps in a candidate's employment history were not sufficiently explored.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is an established senior leadership team that works well together. Leaders are a regular, visible and stabilising presence in the home. Staffing numbers are sufficient and meet the needs of the children. Managers provide good support to staff. This increases staff retention, which ensures that children receive consistent care.

Professionals report effective, collaborative working and are complimentary of the care that the children receive. Managers escalate any concerns with placing authorities effectively. On one isolated occasion, the regulator was not informed of a serious allegation made by a child. This did not have a negative impact on the child. Appropriate action was taken, and all other professionals were informed and maintained a level of external scrutiny.

Overall, the leadership team has good oversight of the service. In more recent weeks, some aspects of its monitoring processes have slipped. Consequently, there are inconsistencies in some staff supervision records, and the language used in some children's records is not always child-centred. There has also been a delay in completing the most recent quality of care review. These issues have not had a negative impact on the children, and leaders had already identified them as areas to improve.

Staff are generally well trained. They are well supported and offer good-quality care to children. However, some staff members have not met the expected timescale for

completing the level 3 diploma. The manager is aware of this shortfall and is taking action to address this.

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 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; if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— 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) (3)(d))	30 November 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should notify Ofsted and other relevant persons if one of the situations specified in regulation 40(4)(a)-(d) occurs, or if there is an incident relating to the protection, safeguarding or welfare of a child living in the home which the registered person considers to be serious (40(4)(e)). ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.10)
- The registered person should ensure all staff in a care role, including external agency or bank staff, have the qualification in regulation 32(4) within the relevant timescale listed in regulation 32(5). ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.12)
- The registered person should ensure staff respect children's privacy and support the other children living in the home to do so. This is in relation to the children's house meetings and ensuring that discussions remain appropriate and protect the dignity of children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.17)
- Children should be supported to understand how to build friendships with other children. They should be able to spend time with their friends in the local community, in their home area and by having friends visit them at the home, in

line with the child's plans, age and understanding. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 38, paragraph 8.7)

- The registered person should make best use of information from independent and internal monitoring, including under regulations 44 and 45, to ensure continuous improvement. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 55, paragraph 10.24)

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: SC066129

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Fairport Care Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Bank Chambers, 1 Central Avenue ME10 4AE

Responsible individual: Nicky Farrant-D-Wilson

Registered manager: Michelle Porter

Inspectors

Emma Haskell, Social Care Regulatory Inspector (Lead)

Cassie Martin, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024