

SC066458

Registered provider: Pebbles Care

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately operated. It is registered for up to three children or young people who have been assessed as having emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or mental health disorders. Careful referral and placement planning and risk assessing will be undertaken before any child or young person is admitted to the home. This process will examine closely any behaviour that would negatively impact on their well-being or that of other residents. The home offers placements on a short-term, medium-term and long-term basis. The manager is now registered with Ofsted. The manager is currently completing her level 5 diploma in leadership and management.

Inspection date: 3 January 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 19 June 2018

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

The children and young people living at the home have all made measurable progress relative to their time in placement. The care that they receive is tailored to their specific needs and vulnerabilities because staff make it their priority to understand how childhood experiences and trauma impact on current behaviour.

Risks are well documented and clearly understood. Children and young people do not go missing from the home. This is a good indicator to how settled they feel and the positive relationships that the children and young people have developed with the adults who

look after them. As one child said: 'I don't need to go missing. I have enough free time and I love living here.' The home would benefit from ensuring that the details of the placing authority's arrangements for independent return home interviews are recorded on file for each child and young person. A recommendation has been made at this inspection.

Children's and young people's physical and emotional health needs are being met. The manager and her staff team are proactive in seeking advice and consultation with specialist services and professionals.

Transitions to and from the home are led by the individual needs of the child or young person. Matching is undertaken that considers the impact on the children and young people already living at the home. A key strength is the consultation that takes place with the children and young people that has seen a very settled home with two recent discharges and admissions. One young person is on a journey of rehabilitation home and another is making a success of semi-independent living.

All complaints and allegations are investigated and escalated when necessary to the local authority safeguarding officer. Despite one child making several complaints, they are not taken lightly and reasons behind this behaviour are looked at in depth. Strategies are in place to protect both the child and the staff. The independent reviewing officer commented: 'All complaints are followed through. The manager and staff clearly work in partnership with the local authority.'

Since the last inspection, the manager has been registered. She has a clear understanding of what the home does well and has embarked on a journey of continuous improvement. Staff training is relevant to current issues facing children and young people, such as county lines, knife crime and exploitation.

The children and young people are thriving. The quality of care is improving outcomes for the children and young people, enabling them to reach their full potential. All the children and young people are in full-time mainstream education and achieving 100% attendance. Contact with families is promoted and relationships are nurtured and repaired. For two children, this has resulted in contact now being unsupervised.

The manager is mindful of the need to have a well-trained and experienced staff team. There is a good gender and ethnic balance within the staff team that is clearly reflective of the children living at the home. Staffing levels are such that they meet the needs of the children and, where identified, risks can be managed safely.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/06/2018	Full	Good
05/12/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/03/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
15/11/2016	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- When a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, the responsible local authority must provide an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)

With particular reference to ensuring that there are details of the placing authority's arrangements for independent return home interviews recorded on file for each young person.

- Many children placed in homes may undergo a difficult transition and what should be simple aspects of their care take on a substantial significance in this context. Homes must also meet children's basic day-to-day needs and physical necessities. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.7)

With particular reference to completing the refurbishment of the second toilet.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

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: SC066458

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Pebbles Care

Registered provider address: 2 Wyther Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS5 3BT

Responsible individual: Amanda Quinn

Registered manager: Rachel Roberts

Inspector

Cath Sikakana: social care inspector

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