

SC069474

Registered provider: Anderida Adolescent Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care for up to three children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. It is owned and run by a private organisation.

At the time of the inspection, no children were living in the home.

The registered manager has been in post since October 2023 and is suitably qualified.

Inspection dates: 29 and 30 October 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: 22 November 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/11/2023	Full	Good
14/03/2023	Full	Good
02/02/2022	Full	Outstanding
09/07/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of this inspection, the home was unoccupied as a child had recently left. Both the registered person and the responsible individual were absent and unavailable for this inspection, and therefore the inspection was facilitated by the home's deputy manager.

When children come to live in the home, a range of information is considered, and considerable effort is made to ensure that children are well suited to their new home. When children leave the home, similar effort is made to ensure that children have positive, planned endings and they can stay in touch with people that they have formed positive relationships with. For one child, they have been able to move to a semi-independence home and is working towards leaving care. For another child, their placement ended in an unplanned way, but staff made efforts to ensure that the child felt cared for and the ending was as positive as possible.

Staff have a good understanding of each child's individual needs and vulnerabilities. They work closely with other services, such as mental health teams and the police to ensure that children get the support that they need to become safer and have better mental health.

Staff place importance on each child's education, and work with schools and the local authority to help children have access to regular, meaningful education. For some children, this has meant improved school attendance, and for one child, they were able to obtain a college placement.

Children are encouraged to be who they want to be and make positive choices about their lives. When conflict occurs between children, concerns are addressed appropriately by managers to ensure clear outcomes and promote tolerance and understanding for others.

Children enjoy a range of activities that help to develop their social skills, stay healthy and encourage them to have fun. For one child they enjoyed trips to local leisure centres and bike rides, while another enjoyed long walks near the beach.

Some children have made good progress in relation to their own starting points. For one child, their attendance at school improved and they gained some part-time employment. For some children, due to the short nature of their time here, progress had been limited and in for one child there were concerns about a deterioration in their behaviours. Children enjoy positive relationships with staff that are warm and nurturing.

They receive good quality care that helps their progress to and staff are guided by clear, individualised care plans that help them to care for children.

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

When children experience difficult emotions, staff are competent in helping to keep children and others safe. They try to help children find safe way to express their feelings. When staff use physical intervention, they do so for the least amount of time needed to ensure that everyone is kept safe.

If staff use consequences in response to incidents of concern, these are restorative in nature and are usually messages of support for the child involved. This helps children to reflect on incidents and recognise how much staff care about them.

When children experience difficult feelings that lead them to harm themselves, staff respond with care to ensure that they get the support and treatment that they need. Staff work with specialist services such as mental health teams to ensure that children get the additional support needed. Through this partnership working, staff can plan for children's care more effectively.

At times when children go missing from home, staff take appropriate action to make sure that they return safely, working with agencies such as the police and sharing relevant information as needed. When children return, staff try to understand the reasons for these occurrences and seek to prevent recurrence.

When staff have concerns about children, they take action to help keep them safe and share their concerns with the wider safeguarding network, including social workers, the police and mental health services. When staff identify areas to help children learn how to keep themselves safe, these actions are not always followed up. For example, on one occasion staff did not complete any learning with a child regarding online safety following some concerns about safe online behaviour, despite this being identified as a clear action.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has a clear vision for the home and positive expectations for children's futures. They understand progress that children have made and celebrate this appropriately. Since the previous inspection in November 2023, managers have worked hard to ensure that the requirements made have been met in full.

Children's views are important to staff. Staff seek opportunities to understand children's wishes and aspirations and try to advocate for children when decisions are being made about their futures. This has helped in developing transition plans for children leaving the home and determining future destinations. Children's views are also sought routinely in plans to develop the home further, which has led to some redecoration of the home.

Managers work closely with other professionals such as social workers and mental health services to ensure that children get the support that they need and that care plans can be developed collaboratively. Generally, social workers spoke positively about how good communication was, but noted there were some missed opportunities to seek guidance

about children being in contact with family. When managers have appropriately challenged professionals when they have identified areas where children have needed additional support. For one child, managers worked with school colleagues to help them understand the child's needs and this enabled the child to return to school and have a more positive experience there.

Staff speak warmly of the support that they receive and how much they feel valued. They have supervisions that help them to reflect on their own practice. In addition, staff benefit from appraisals though these do not always occur annually within expected timeframes. For one person, their appraisal had not been completed despite being three months overdue. Progress with completing this has been hampered by the absence of their line manager.

Staff have a good range of training that helps them to understand their roles better and this is regularly updated. Additional training is provided where a need is identified in line with children's individual needs.

Managers spoke clearly of a challenging period in the home and prioritised children getting the support that they need. Management oversight of the home has been effective. However, on one occasion, a risk assessment had not been updated and contradicted a known risk for a child. This appears to have been an administrative shortfall as managers were clear on what risks there were for each child. In addition, the home requires significant redecoration due to damage caused by a child. Managers have a clear plan to address this in the coming weeks which is why the home currently remains vacant.

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to understand how to keep safe. (Regulation 12 (1) (2) (a)(ii)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that where opportunities to teach children how to be safe are identified, necessary steps are taken to ensure this is carried out.	31 December 2024
The registered person must ensure that all employees— have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(c))	31 December 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them. Where there identified risks for a child, plans must be updated and include the steps that the home will take to manage this on a day-to-day basis. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- The registered person should ensure that the arrangements for children having contact with their family are agreed between the registered person and the child's placing authority and are regularly updated. Specifically, the registered person must follow the agreed arrangement for children to be in contact with family members and seek agreement from the placing authority if they or the child wish to make changes to this. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 58, paragraph 11.15)

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: SC069474

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Anderida Adolescent Care Ltd

Registered provider address: Anderida Adolescent Care Ltd, Neville Mews, 6a Neville Road, Eastbourne BN22 8HR

Responsible individual: Erica Castle

Registered manager: Karen Sparrow-Profit

Inspector

Jay Shekleton, Social Care Inspector

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