

SC356864

Registered provider: Time-Out Childrens Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned home which provides care for up to two children. The provider's statement of purpose states that children may have severe emotional and behavioural difficulties (emotional and social difficulties).

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

We last visited this setting on 4 Feb 2021 to carry out a monitoring visit. The report is published on the Ofsted website.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since December 2020

Inspection dates: 25 to 26 January 2022

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 **outstanding**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 18 December 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/12/2019	Full	Good
15/01/2019	Full	Good
23/05/2017	Full	Good
18/01/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children progress well from their starting points. They are offered a range of activities and experiences and have fun with staff. Staff know the children well and are committed to supporting their progression. A child told the inspector, 'It's amazing here.' Children are supported to build secure relationships with the adults who care for them.

Staff listen to children's views, wishes and feelings. Weekly meetings take place to discuss meals that the children like and activities they would like to take part in. Staff carefully gather children's views by using creative ways of communicating, such as 'social stories'. This helps children to feel empowered.

Children are supported to attend school and have good attendance. They are making progress at school. The communication between school and home is effective. A child's teacher told the inspector, 'We speak twice a day and meet with the home manager once a week. She really fights [name of child]'s corner.' This frequent contact ensures that the children receive consistent messages both at school and home.

Staff communicate well with each other and are consistent in their approach to caring for the children. There is a strong emphasis on using the secure base model of care to support the staff in offering consistent and reliable responses to children. This means that staff provide stable routines and clear boundaries. Positive behaviour is encouraged. Individually tailored and realistic rewards are in place. As a result, children have something to aim for each day.

When children move into the home, careful and sensitive planning helps them prepare for moving in. Visual plans are shared with the children, and they are made to feel very welcome. Staff compile 'journey books' with the children during their time at the home. This is a record of all of the exciting activities they have participated in. When children move out of the home, they take these books with them, which helps them remember and understand their time in care as part of their life journey.

The home appears worn, and the decor needs to be updated. The manager has a development plan for the home and garden. Work is required to ensure that the home environment improves.

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

The staff know the children in their care very well. Children have detailed risk assessments that are regularly updated to reflect any changes for the child. The risk assessments are realistic and effective and discussed with each child. As a result,

the number of physical interventions with children has reduced significantly over time. Children feel very safe, well supported and happy in this home.

Staff challenge any discriminatory behaviour, and children are supported to understand how to treat others with respect. Children are protected and helped to keep themselves safe from homophobic behaviour, racism, sexism and any other forms of discrimination.

Managers have a good, research-based understanding of child development and the effects of early life experiences. The secure base model encourages children to have a sense of family membership or belonging. Other therapeutic models are employed when it is felt necessary to support children with individual issues.

There have been several physical restraints in the home. These have been necessary and appropriate. Staff and children debrief with the manager or senior staff member following these incidents, and each incident is recorded and monitored. The number of physical interventions has reduced over time as therapeutic measures have been used to build trusting relationships with children to de-escalate situations quickly.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The registered manager is positive and has high aspirations for the children. Children thrive and are well supported. The manager knows the children and the staff team extremely well. She is aware of the home's strengths and weaknesses and uses effective monitoring systems to identify when change or improvement is needed.

Staff have access to regular reflective supervision with the manager or senior staff member. They also have access to bi-annual appraisals to support them to identify any learning needs or development opportunities. The organisation supports staff development with a structured career pathway. Staff speak very positively about their manager. Staff said that the manager is a calm and present leader who is supportive and child focused. Staff have access to regular therapeutic consultations, which assist them to offer thoughtful, intelligent, informed care to the children.

The children's home has a stable staff team. Staff trust the manager. They feel secure in their role and in the quality of care they are offering the children. Children know the staff who are caring for them extremely well and are aware of who is going to be there for them all the time. The stable staffing arrangements and consistent rota system provide a predictable environment and help children feel safe and secure.

Leaders and managers have excellent working relationships with partner agencies, schools and family members. This ensures the very best possible experiences and futures for the children in their care. The inspector spoke with a parent who commented, 'They speak to me regularly and support my contact with [name of child].' Promoting positive family time will help children to maintain a sense of self and to maintain family bonds.

The children respond very positively to the calm family environment, which is staffed by qualified, skilled, and very positive carers. Children have access to a safe, stable home life and activities, ideas, and opportunities that increase their aspirations, resilience and confidence.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the homes decor is updated to make it feel more comfortable and like a family home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 15 paragraph 3.9)

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: SC356864

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Time-Out Childrens Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 2, Mill Fold, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge HX6 4DH

Responsible individual: Dominic Macauley

Registered manager: Lauren Birkett

Inspector

Cathy Wilkins, Social Care Inspector

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