

SC357133

Registered provider: Social Care Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private provider. It provides care for up to three children who have emotional and social difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2023.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home.

Inspection dates: 29 and 30 July 2025

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: 24 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/09/2024	Full	Good
12/03/2024	Full	Good
08/11/2022	Full	Good
03/08/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children like living at the home. One child has lived at the home for nearly four years and has made progress in all areas of their life. They are settled and have a strong sense of belonging. One child who previously lived at the home described staff as 'amazing' and 'so supportive'. Staff provide a good standard of care and are focused on achieving the best outcomes for the children.

Relationships between staff and children are positive. Staff talk about the children with warmth and enthusiasm. Children feel comfortable talking to staff; they have open discussions with them and feel heard. Children's wishes and views are sought regularly, and staff respond to any issues or requests. However, opportunities have been missed to ensure that children know how to make a complaint.

Staff support children with their education. The manager and staff advocated tirelessly to find appropriate education provisions to meet the children's needs. Alternatives are in place when children cannot go to school. One child, who had not attended formal education for some time, took their GCSE exams with consistent encouragement from staff.

Children are offered a variety of activities. They are encouraged to try new opportunities, and their interests are nurtured. Staff arranged for a child who is interested in making and recording rap music to attend a local music studio regularly.

Children are supported to spend time with people who are important to them. Staff have developed positive relationships with children's family members and communicate with them regularly. One parent said, 'The staff are great. They are family orientated and communicate really well with me.' Staff make children's friends feel welcome when they visit, which allows children to socialise and have fun in their home.

Children live in a spacious and comfortable home. There is ample room for children to relax and spend time together or apart. Children's bedrooms are well furnished and personalised according to their individual tastes. However, paintwork in some areas is damaged, and the external area is unfinished. This is something the manager had identified and planned to rectify before the inspection.

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

Children's risks and vulnerabilities are known and understood by staff. Their risk and behaviour management plans are personalised and updated regularly. They provide clear information and guidance for staff to help them support children to be safe and secure.

Staff work proactively and collaboratively with other agencies to ensure the safety of the children. The children's social workers said that staff manage the children's risks effectively.

When a child goes missing from the home, staff take swift and appropriate action to ensure that they return home quickly and safely. The frequency of incidents of children going missing from home has decreased recently. Staff are resilient and continually adapt their practice to meet the changing needs of the children to keep them safe.

Staff routinely encourage positive behaviour, and children choose their rewards, which they respond well to. Regular discussions take place with children about topics relevant to them and their age and stage of development. An older child is being helped to develop their independence in preparation for when they leave the home. A child who previously lived at the home said the support from staff was 'amazing' and the help she received when she moved out was 'mint'.

Staff are trained in a therapeutic model that is used in their day-to-day practice for the benefit of both children. Staff and children are also starting to benefit from the company's recent appointment of a therapist who is visiting the home regularly.

There are clear boundaries and routines in place at the home. Children are helped to regulate and understand their emotions. Consequently, there have not been any incidents of staff needing to hold children to keep them safe.

Safer recruitment practices are in place to ensure that only adults who are safe to work with children are employed in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced and child focused. He promotes a therapeutic approach in the home and is highly regarded by the children and the staff team. The manager is supported by an enthusiastic and ambitious assistant manager.

Staff enjoy working in the home. They feel valued and supported by the manager. One staff member described him as 'very professional and easy to talk to'. Another staff member said he was 'very supportive'. The manager ensures that staff and children are involved in making decisions about the home.

The manager works proactively and effectively with other agencies and professionals. He is a strong advocate for the children and routinely works in their best interests to ensure that their needs are met. A social worker said, 'The manager is really responsive. He updates me regularly, and he is supportive and attentive to the needs of the children and the staff.'

Staff have regular supervision sessions and team meetings, which provides them with opportunities to reflect on their practice. The manager often discusses research

and new ways of working with staff to continually improve and develop their practice. Staff regularly complete training courses to ensure that their knowledge and skills are kept up to date. This includes specialist training to equip them with the skills to meet the children's current and emerging needs.

The manager has good oversight of the home. He knows the strengths and areas of vulnerability and takes action to address any shortfalls. The manager regularly monitors and reviews the quality of care provided to the children.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home is well maintained internally and externally. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.3)
- The registered person should ensure that children are aware of the complaint procedure and how they can make a written complaint. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22 paragraph 4.13)

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: SC357133

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Social Care Services Limited

Registered provider address: Social Care Services Group, 31 Shaw Road,
Stockport SK4 4AG

Responsible individual: Annabella Foulkes

Registered manager: Dale Buchan

Inspector

Zillah Brooks, Social Care Inspector

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