

SC358046

Registered provider: The Senad Group Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately operated and there is a school on the same site. The home provides care for up to 32 children with autism spectrum disorder, Asperger syndrome, acquired brain injury and communication difficulties. Most children living in the home return to their family home for the school holidays.

The manager registered with Ofsted in 2014.

The inspectors only inspected the social care provision at this school.

Inspection dates: 17 to 19 September 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: 18 July 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/07/2023	Full	Good
24/08/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
06/07/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Leaders and managers have continued to provide a nurturing environment for children to live in. There are many strengths at this children's home, including the preparation and promotion of independence skills for children, based on children's aspirations.

The care for children is bespoke and tailored to individual needs. Staff and managers receive training about children's specific caring needs, for instance obsessive compulsive disorder and pathological demand avoidance. Because the staff have the knowledge, children settle quickly and develop good relationships with staff.

Children are encouraged to pursue their hobbies and interests. Some children are skilled at crocheting, others enjoy shopping, while some spend their free time gaming. Staff encourage children to share activities with their peers in the home. This helps to build children's confidence and self-esteem and helps to establish relationships.

Families are positive about their children's progress. Effective levels of communication, staff understanding their child's care and health needs, together with any mistakes quickly rectified. This helps to maintain trust between families and the children's home.

Children are helped to maintain relationships with people who are important to them. This helps to minimise feelings of loss and helps with the formation of children's identity.

Children's health needs are well met. Detailed plans give staff the essential medical information they need. However, when children first begin to live at this children's home, information in some areas is minimal. Children who have lived at the home longer have detailed and thorough care plans in place.

Children are consulted in several ways. Their views, wishes and feelings are sought and acted on. For some children, they have been involved in choosing the decor for a newly refurbished communal area. Children also know how to make a complaint. They are provided with the information through key-working sessions. When children make a complaint, these are taken seriously. Managers ensure that any complaints are investigated fairly and thoroughly. This means that children are listened to.

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

Children are settled and have positive relationships with staff. Children feel safe and comfortable in the home.

Managers have developed robust and effective relationships with families. Because some children go home in the school holidays, advice and support continue to be offered out of term time. This means that managers and staff continue to support families to keep their children safe when in a school holiday period.

Managers and staff know the risks that children in their care are exposed to. Any identified areas of risk are regularly reviewed, and safety plans are kept up to date and comprehensive. Managers and staff have a balanced and realistic approach to risk, providing an effective balance between safeguarding and promoting independence for children.

Managers have ensured that there is a system in place to share safeguarding concerns with the on-site multi-agency team. These regular meetings mean that safeguarding concerns at all levels have effective oversight, with actions and accountability agreed. Because of this system, children are safer.

When allegations are made, leaders and managers share information appropriately with safeguarding agencies, including the local authority designated officer and the police. The regulator is informed.

The administration of medication is a safe and effective process. Staff are provided with training and undergo a robust series of competency checks. Only then are staff allowed to independently administer medication to children. When children want to be more independent with managing their own medication, this is carefully risk assessed and regularly reviewed.

Managers have ensured that there are safe and effective fire safety processes. They liaise with property services, reporting any faults or concerns identified through regular fire-safety checks. When new children come to the home, a fire evacuation drill is undertaken as soon as practical. Staff are conscience of children's specific sensory caring needs and anxieties. As a result, children can take part in a role-play scenario with staff, to learn what to do if the fire alarm goes off.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led effectively by a registered manager, who is overtly focused on outcomes for all children. The registered manager is well supported by an experienced care manager. They lead a motivated and positive team of staff, who ensure that children receive the best support they need. Staff work as part of an effective multi-disciplinary professional network.

Staff enjoy their work. They are well supported and provided with a broad range of learning and development opportunities. This has increased their knowledge and confidence. When children have specific care or health needs, managers ensure that staff are upskilled in these areas, utilising the clinical psychologist and the therapy team.

When staff are keen to develop within their role, they are provided with several developmental opportunities, including further training, and mentoring from senior colleagues.

New staff commit to undertake a thorough induction. This is wide ranging and includes mandatory and child-specific training, delivered by both in-house and external professionals. Some training has an element of competency checking. Safeguarding is a key focus for all staff, beginning at induction and continuing through staff careers.

Team meetings take place regularly. They are well planned and provide the opportunity for updates about the care of children, with a key focus on safeguarding matters. Staff practice is reviewed, and some team meetings involve reflective discussions, supporting the team to develop.

Staff receive regular supervision. They are sensitively supported to improve their practice. Staff feel supported in their role and with their own well-being. Good use of scenario-based questions strengthens and develops safeguarding knowledge and practice.

One requirement and three recommendations from the last inspection are considered met.

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: SC358046

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider: The Senad Group Limited

Registered provider address: Senad Group Ltd, 1 St. Georges House, Vernon Gate, Derby DE1 1UQ

Responsible individual: Mark Ryder

Registered manager: Karen Tatham

Inspectors

Simon Hunter, Social Care Inspector
Emma Dacres, Social Care Inspector

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