

SC387148

Registered provider: Fairfield Residential Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provider states in its statement of purpose that this home provides care for up to five children with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorder. The home is run by a private company and provides education on site at a registered school. The inspector only inspected the social care provision at this setting. At the time of the inspection, five children were living at the home.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since December 2015.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 November 2023

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: 20 September 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/09/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/03/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
07/12/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff know the children well and they have a good understanding of each child's needs. Staff are child-centred and speak enthusiastically about each individual child's progress.

Staff understand the children's communication needs. This enables children to participate fully in their day-to-day lives. The staff support children in making choices around their meals and activities and the decoration of the home. They have a good understanding of how each child expresses their wants and needs, and this ensures that the child's voice is heard.

Children are actively participating in activities in the home and out in the community. They are given choices and their interests are considered. Staff and children are involved in charity events such as Macmillan coffee morning and the Poppy Appeal to help raise money for others.

Children are attending school regularly. Staff work closely with the education team to ensure that there is a good working relationship between the care staff and the teaching staff. One child has been recognised for the progress they have made and has achieved the award of head girl at school.

Staff ensure that children's health needs are met. This includes working with health specialists and parents. This helps children to manage their lifelong conditions. Medication is managed appropriately and there is good management oversight to ensure that staff are trained in the administration of medication.

Staff have developed good relationships with children's parents. Regular family time is encouraged, and children have planned time with their parents. In addition, children have regular calls with their parents. There is frequent communication between staff and children's parents. This enables parents to feel fully involved in their children's lives.

Children are developing their life skills. This is achieved by staff sensitively encouraging children to meet set goals each month, for example through small tasks such as helping with the cooking, going out to the local shops, or taking on more responsibility around their own personal care. One child is supported in undertaking weekly work experience at a local cafe.

Staff celebrate children's achievements. Children's artwork and photos of them taking part in activities are displayed around the home. The home has a 'positive tree', where staff write about children's achievements on a paper leaf and attach this to the tree. Staff also keep parents and other professionals informed of children's achievements by sending regular photos.

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

Children are safe in the home. There are appropriate levels of staffing to meet children's needs and protect them from harm. Parents said that they trust staff and think they have a good knowledge of their children's needs.

Risk assessments are detailed and informative and are used to highlight each child's vulnerabilities and the actions staff need to take to protect them from harm. These plans are clear and known and followed by staff and are regularly reviewed.

The management team works closely with other professionals to ensure that children are safe. The manager attends regular meetings with other professionals when required to support children who are at increased risk. This shared approach is enabling and supporting staff to look at ways to reduce any risk and keep children safe.

Positive behaviour is encouraged. Staff use positive de-escalation techniques to help children manage their anxieties and frustrations. Overall, children respond well to this approach. Physical intervention has only been used on a few occasions, to guide a child to their recognised safe place to prevent them from hurting themselves further.

Children benefit from a physically safe and comfortable environment. Children have access to a soft play area, which they use regularly. Their bedrooms are individualised with equipment when necessary. All health and safety checks have been completed and any shortfalls have been addressed.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is experienced, qualified, dedicated and caring. To support the manager, there are now two senior staff members, who share the same aspirations for children. The senior staff take an active part in supporting the manager in the continued development of the quality of care provided to children.

The management team has good oversight of the day-to-day running of the home. Managers ensure that staff are consistent in supporting children's plans. Records are clear on the progress children are making. The manager also uses internal and independent monitoring to improve the quality of care provided for the children, and acts on any shortfalls identified.

Staff are committed, caring and attentive to each individual child's needs. They said that they feel supported by the manager.

There is a comprehensive staff training programme in place. This starts from induction and continues with staff having regular ongoing training. All staff have completed their mandatory training courses and have received additional training around the specific needs of the children, ensuring that they have the knowledge they need.

Staff are given opportunities to reflect on their practice. This is achieved through regular supervisions and annual appraisals. Team meetings take place regularly, are well attended and follow a set agenda. Staff use these meetings as an opportunity to raise issues and share good practice.

No requirements or recommendations were issued at this inspection.

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: SC387148

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Fairfield Residential Limited.

Registered provider address: 108 Whitworth Road, Rochdale OL12 0JJ

Responsible individual: Kendall Cope

Registered manager: Debra McGarrigan

Inspector

Simon Jones, Social Care Inspector

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