

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 their 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 school.

The manager has been registered since December 2015.

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 September 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 28 March 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: improved effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/03/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
07/12/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/03/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

Children are happy living at the home, and it is well resourced to meet the children's needs. However, there are locks on internal doors, and communal rooms are also being used as sleeping quarters for staff in the evenings. These aspects restrict children from being able to freely access communal areas.

The home benefits from a school on site, which some of the children attend. However, the home entrance is also used for other students, which can make the home feel less homely.

Children are supervised and supported in line with their needs. However, sound monitors used during the night have not been formally agreed by all those with parental responsibility. This impacts on the children's right to privacy.

All children attend school full time and are making progress. Staff supported one child to meet with school staff during the summer holidays to support the transition to education.

The staff support time with family, and one child recently celebrated her birthday with a party at the home attended by her family. Families feel welcome and supported by the manager and staff team.

Plans for the children outline targets that they are working towards. However, staff do not use information collected to review and develop targets. This limits the potential progress children can make.

Staff have a good understanding of children's likes and dislikes and support children to take part in leisure activities. One child has recently joined a local football team. This promotes children's participation in their community.

The manager has sought medical advice regarding individual children's health needs. However, the manager has not sought formal agreement from the placing authority regarding administering medication covertly.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Children are safer and more settled because of moving into the home and can access the community safely due to the support from staff. The manager seeks advice from other specialists, including occupational therapists. This has improved the children's quality of life.

Not all staff are aware of the fire procedures. Although this has not directly had an impact on the children, it has the potential to do so.

Although the use of bespoke equipment has been agreed and assessed, it is not all included in children's education, health and care plans (EHC plans) or the home's statement of purpose. Additionally, there is no clear process for discussing restraint reduction and increasing independence.

Staff understand individual children's needs and respond sensitively to them following risk management plans. Staff are curious about triggers for behaviour. However, records lack detail of how staff have supported children. The manager has not consistently reviewed and evaluated incident reports. This means that strategies and interventions used by staff are not always reviewed for effectiveness.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The manager knows the children well and has good relationships with them. She cares for the children and is a good advocate for them. However, the monitoring systems in place are not always used effectively to monitor progress and identify shortfalls.

The manager is experienced and qualified. Professionals spoke highly of the care provided to children by the manager and the staff team. Staff also say they feel supported by the manager. However, staff training is not reviewed to highlight areas for development.

Independent visits take place monthly and a report is provided. The manager has also completed a review of the quality of care. However, reports do not include feedback. This is a missed opportunity to improve the care provided to children or address any issues.

Rotas do not clearly identify the staff working each day, including agency staff. Rotas also do not allocate time for a handover, which means some of the daily checks have been missed, including medication checks. This could have had an impact on a child's health.

New staff to the home have been recruited, and safer recruitment principles have been followed. Where the home has used agency staff, there have been efforts to seek consistent staff to ensure continuity for the children.

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 registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) This relates specifically to removing internal locks on the doors of communal areas. This also relates to seeking a signed agreement from placing authorities regarding any additional surveillance. This also relates to staff sleeping arrangements.	31 October 2022
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—	31 October 2022

ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(f)(g)(ii)(h)) This relates to the manager ensuring that effective monitoring systems are in place. This also relates to managers seeking feedback to improve the quality of care.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(b)(ii)(iii)) This relates specifically to care plans providing staff with clear aims and objectives in line with placing authority plans that are regularly reviewed to ensure that children are making progress.	31 October 2022

After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must— ensure, by means of fire drills and practices at suitable intervals, that persons working at the home and, so far as reasonably practicable, children are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire. (Regulation 25 (1)(d))	31 October 2022
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; and ensure that the records are kept up to date. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)) This relates specifically to staff rotas evidencing full names of staff and which agency they work for (if applicable), the manager's hours, actual hours worked and time for staff to hand over information.	31 October 2022
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and	31 October 2022

a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;

within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—

has spoken to the user about the measure; and

has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and

within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.

Paragraph (3) does not apply in relation to restraint that is planned or provided for as a matter of routine in the child's EHC plan or statement of special educational needs.

(Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c) (4))

This relates specifically to managers ensuring that mechanical restraints used are recorded and reviewed in line with regulation.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the use of mechanical restraint is included in the behaviour management policy and statement of purpose. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 47, paragraph 9.44)
- The registered person should ensure that the 'Managing medicines in care homes (March 2014)' guidelines are implemented. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35, paragraph 7.17)

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

Inspectors

Sylvia Eboigbe, Social Care Inspector

Kerri Lynch-Mahoney, Social Care Inspector

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