

SC387684

Registered provider: Esland South Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home provides care for up to six children who may experience emotional and/or social difficulties. The home offers planned, emergency and respite placements.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2021.

There were three children living in the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 November 2022

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: 8 February 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: improved effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/02/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
07/07/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/04/2019	Full	Good
26/11/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are supported to form close and trusting relationships with staff. One child said, 'Staff are good, they look after us and keep us safe.'

Children can express their views about their day-to-day care through key-work sessions and in weekly meetings. For example, children helped to choose how the lounge in the home would be redecorated. Staff remind children of their right to have an independent advocate and promote this. Consequently, one child is supported by an advocate and another child is waiting for an advocate to be allocated.

Staff understand that it is important for children to maintain relationships with the people who are special to them. Parents and other family members are warmly welcomed into the home, and staff support and arrange for children to spend quality time with their family when it is safe for them to do so.

Children are supported to live healthy lifestyles. Staff ensure that children attend health appointments and take their medication as prescribed. When additional support is needed to promote children's health, staff ensure that there is a good multi-agency approach and make referrals to relevant services such as child and adolescent mental health services. Children are also supported by staff to have a healthy diet and participate in physical activities, such as swimming or going for a walk in the local park. Furthermore, children are provided with opportunities to participate in a range of activities in the home and the community. For example, one child attends a drama group.

Staff are ambitious for children and support and encourage them to attend and do well in their education. Two children are in full-time education. However, one child who is no longer attending their college course is supported by staff to find an apprenticeship course. Children are supported by staff to learn valuable independence skills such as cooking.

The home is clean, comfortable and decorated to a good standard. There are photos of the children displayed throughout the house. This adds to the homely atmosphere of the home.

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

Children say that they feel safe at the home and they know there are trusted adults who they can talk to if they have any worries. The manager and staff work hard to ensure that children are protected from harm. Staff work with children to explore risks and vulnerabilities and to help them to learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, children receive key-work sessions on issues such as self-harm, substance

misuse, the dangers of being missing from home and their involvement in offending behaviour.

The manager and staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's needs and vulnerabilities. Children's risk assessments are reviewed regularly. They include all known risks and set out specific actions of how staff should respond to and manage these risks.

Children who go missing from the home experience a well-coordinated response and staff work collaboratively with families and key professionals to safeguard children. Staff take action to contact children and encourage their safe return home. However, this is not always effective in decreasing the number of missing from home incidents for one child.

The good level of attention from staff and clear boundaries set for children have resulted in a low number of significant incidents. There have been no incidents requiring the use of physical intervention since the last inspection.

The manager and staff demonstrate a good understanding of the procedures to be followed when an allegation is made. Any allegations are reported to relevant safeguarding professionals and followed up appropriately. This demonstrates that staff are able to respond to safeguarding concerns relating to other staff and managers.

Safer recruitment processes were followed for the one new member of staff appointed since the last inspection. This demonstrates that only suitable staff are employed to work at the home.

The bedroom door sensor for one child is activated during the night, despite there not being a safeguarding reason for this. Furthermore, the child's risk assessment for this measure is not regularly reviewed and updated. Therefore, the rationale for the ongoing use of this restrictive practice is not known.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is managed by an experienced and qualified registered manager. The leaders, managers and staff demonstrate a genuine commitment to the children in their care and strive to make a positive difference to their lives. There is a stable core staff team in place, providing a consistent level of care and a family-style home environment.

Children's records show evidence of management oversight. This demonstrates that the manager has a good understanding of children's needs and progress which helps her to make child-centred decisions.

The feedback provided by staff about the leadership of the home is highly positive. Staff reported feeling supported, valued and appreciated. Staff appreciated that leaders and managers are approachable.

Staff benefit from induction, regular supervision and appraisals. Staff have access to training relevant to the needs of the children in their care. Team meetings are used as learning and development opportunities.

Leaders and managers use learning from practice and feedback to improve the experiences and care of children. For example, the recording of rewards has improved a recommendation from the independent person who completes the monthly quality assurance visits.

Leaders and managers have not ensured that the children's guide is in a format accessible for all children that the home is suitable for, as per the home's statement of purpose. The current format of the guide is only suitable for older children. The manager informed the inspector that she is in the process of reviewing the guide.

Managers have addressed all the requirements and recommendations raised at the last inspection.

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, 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 may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if— the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children; the monitoring or surveillance is no more intrusive than necessary, having regard to the child's need for privacy. (Regulation 24 (1)(a)(d)) In particular, leaders and managers should regularly review the use of bedroom door sensors to ensure that they are only used when necessary to safeguard a child.	9 December 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the children's guide is age appropriate and in an accessible format for each child that the home is considered suitable for, as outlined in the statement of purpose. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards (2015)', page 24, paragraph 4.21)

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: SC387684

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Esland South Limited

Registered provider address: Suites 1 & 5, Riverside Business Centre, Foundry Lane, Milford, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0RN

Responsible individual: Andrew Lewis

Registered manager: Hannah Murley

Inspector

Aneta Wasilewska, Social Care Inspector

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