

# SC397987

Registered provider: Fairfield Residential Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to two children with learning disabilities. It was registered by Ofsted in October 2009.

There has not been a registered manager since December 2021.

**Inspection date:** 29 March 2023

**Date of last inspection:** 21 June 2022

**Judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

## **Findings from the inspection**

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

### **The care of children**

There are currently no children living at the home. One child moved out in February. The child had good relationships with the staff team. One parent said, 'Staff understood [name of child] better than I did. They knew their triggers and brought out the best in them. Because of this, we have happy memories.'

The staff worked well with the child's family and supported them to rebuild their relationship. The staff tried different ways to ensure that the child's time with their family was positive.

The staff supported the child well with their mental health. They were supported to attend their reviews, and the staff team worked closely with professionals to implement and review guidelines for staff to follow. However, necessary reports and plans have not been requested following meetings.

The manager worked with education when the child was struggling with his health and looked at ways that they could support this. However, there were not clear plans in place for the staff or child to follow. Education was not encouraged by the staff so that the child could meet his full potential.

The manager made some improvements to the garden. However, the staff have been using a vacant room as sleeping quarters. This is not in line with the conditions of registration for the home.

### **The safety of children**

Children's risks were understood by the staff, and they worked hard to keep the child safe in line with agreed plans.

The child had clear behaviour support plans for staff to follow. Although the police had been called for support in line with plans, this was rare. This shows that staff were able to successfully de-escalate incidents and reassure the child during times of crisis.

Medication was administered as and when required, according to a strict protocol, to support the child to regulate. However, full incident records have not been completed when there have been incidents, and children have not received debriefs.

## **The effectiveness of leaders and managers**

The registered manager post has been vacant since December 2021. The deputy manager has been overseeing the home with support from the service manager.

The staff team has remained consistent, and it has received appropriate training and guidance to support the child. Regular supervision sessions and team meetings have taken place that are child focused.

There have been some improvements with regards to the monitoring of the quality of care. However, this is not always evaluated, and actions are not always agreed to develop and improve outcomes for children.

An independent person visits each month. However, reports lack detail and evaluation. Stakeholders' views are not regularly sought, which impacts on the ability of the manager to make improvements.

Not all requirements have been met from the last inspection.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 21/06/2022      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 22/02/2022      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 10/10/2019      | Full            | Good                            |
| 06/02/2019      | Interim         | Sustained effectiveness         |

# 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    |
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| <p>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers;</p> <p>help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment;</p> <p>promote opportunities for each child to learn informally;</p> <p>help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible;</p> <p>help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans.<br/>(Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii)(x))</p> <p>This relates specifically to ensuring that children are accessing education as agreed in their plans and that staff are clear on the plans for supporting the children's education when they are not attending school.</p> | 17 May 2023 |

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| <p>This also relates to supporting the child to understand the importance of education and ensuring that they are encouraged to reach their potential.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |
| <p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a))</p> <p>This relates specifically to the manager ensuring that records of meetings are requested and that these inform the home's plans. This also relates to the manager ensuring there is an up-to-date care plan for the child and that the child's plans are kept up to date and reviewed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>17 May 2023</p> |
| <p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f))</p> <p>This relates specifically to ensuring that the home's records show the child's starting point, journey and progress.</p> | <p>17 May 2023</p> |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises. (Regulation 21 (b))</p> <p>This relates specifically to vacant children's bedrooms not being used as staff sleeping quarters.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>17 May 2023</p> |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>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—</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>17 May 2023</p> |

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| <p>the name of the child;</p> <p>details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure;</p> <p>the date, time and location of the use of the measure;</p> <p>a description of the measure and its duration;</p> <p>details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;</p> <p>the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used;</p> <p>the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and</p> <p>a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;</p> <p>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")—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p> <p>has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))</p> <p>This relates specifically to records being kept in line with paragraph 3. This also relates to children receiving debriefs following incidents of restraint.</p> |             |
| <p>The registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children's home if—</p> <p>there is no registered manager in respect of the home; and</p> <p>the registered provider—</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 17 May 2023 |

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| <p>is an organisation or a partnership;</p> <p>does not satisfy regulation 28; or</p> <p>is not, or does not intend to be, in day-to-day charge of the home.</p> <p>If the registered provider appoints a person to manage the home, the registered provider must, without delay, give HMCI notice of—</p> <p>the name of the person so appointed; and</p> <p>the date on which the appointment takes effect.<br/>(Regulation 27 (1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii) (2)(a)(b))</p> <p>The registered person should ensure that the regulator is kept up to date with the steps taken to appoint a registered manager.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month.</p> <p>When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person—</p> <p>if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires; and</p> <p>to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires.</p> <p>A visit by the independent person to the home may be unannounced.</p> <p>The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether—</p> <p>children are effectively safeguarded; and</p> <p>the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.</p> | <p>17 May 2023</p> |

The independent person's report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions.  
(Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))

Specifically, ensure that the independent person's report is evaluative, analytical and includes consultation with children, parents and stakeholders. Also, ensure that the report is sent to the regulator in a timely manner.

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC397987

**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:** Post vacant

## Inspector

Kerri Lynch-Mahoney, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate  
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