

SC406638

Registered provider: Winsbeach Children's Home Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care for up to three children who experience social and/or emotional difficulties. This home provides short- and long-term care.

The manager registered with Ofsted in February 2010.

At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

Inspection dates: 12 and 13 March 2025

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	requires improvement to be 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: 19 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/03/2024	Full	Good
15/02/2023	Full	Good
02/11/2021	Full	Good
06/01/2020	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have good relationships with the staff. Staff understand children's needs well and maintain positive, nurturing relationships. They prioritise building trust and meaningful connections with children by creating an environment that focuses on their well-being and best interests. Regular key-work sessions help children understand their lived experiences. As a result, children respond positively to staff and build secure, trusting relationships.

Children are happy and well cared for in this home. Observations of staff interactions and conversations with children confirm that they feel valued and comfortable in their home. Children say they feel looked after by staff, which enhances their sense of stability and security.

Staff actively plan for children's education. One child regularly attends school, and for those who do not access their education provision, leaders and managers consistently work with educational professionals to support children's re-engagement in education.

Staff build positive relationships with parents and support children in keeping relationships with their families, appropriate to their individual circumstances. They manage such matters sensitively, ensuring that children can enjoy themselves and have positive experiences.

Children engage in various activities. They enjoy activities that help them develop social skills and lead healthy, active lifestyles, such as playing football in the park, going to the cinema, going on drives with staff, and visiting Westminster Palace.

Care planning includes children and considers their diverse cultural backgrounds. Care plans are individualised and cater to children's specific needs, including their religion, ethnicity and identity. Children experience and celebrate religious festivals. Staff support children in developing their independence skills and help them in transitioning to new stages of life.

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

Children's risk assessments do not always consider all recognised risks. For example, one child's risk assessment does not indicate a history of child sexual exploitation.

Leaders and managers have failed to address concerns raised at the last inspection relating to fire safety. Leaders and managers are still not adhering to the fire risk assessment, and they have failed to take the necessary steps to minimise the risk of harm to children and staff. Some internal doors, including those in the living room and

kitchen, do not self-close. Staff continue to use door wedges to prop these doors open. Additionally, one child's bedroom door has a gap that prevents it from closing correctly.

The storage of sharp items, such as knives and scissors, is poorly managed and lacks sufficient consideration. For example, a large kitchen knife and a pair of scissors are kept in an unlocked cabinet in the living room.

The home's medication policy does not address the storage of over-the-counter medication.

Incidents of children going missing from the home have significantly reduced. When children go missing, staff make efforts to maintain contact with them and report them missing in accordance with the missing-from-home protocol. Managers request independent return home interviews.

When there are concerns for children, room searches are carried out promptly. These are proportionate, and they help keep children safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is run by an experienced registered manager, and most staff have worked at the home for several years. The registered manager is enthusiastic about providing a high standard of care to children.

The registered manager's communication skills have been praised, and they have developed working relationships with parents and partner agencies. Leaders and managers consistently attend meetings relating to the children and engage well with parents.

Staff benefit from comprehensive supervision sessions and annual appraisals. Regular supervision sessions and staff meetings allow staff to reflect on their practice, discuss the care of children, and review their learning and development needs.

New staff members have access to an induction plan, which includes completing all mandatory training. Staff receive a wide range of core training, covering diverse topics that help them to meet children's needs. However, some members of staff are not up to date with their refresher training.

The registered manager promotes a strong child-focused practice by ensuring that children receive a wide range of informed training. For example, children have attended courses on understanding the signs of criminal exploitation, food hygiene, fire safety, and recognising the risks of radicalisation. These opportunities help children to make better decisions regarding their personal safety.

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
After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must— take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of suitable fire equipment in the children's home. (Regulation 25 (1)(a)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that the living room, kitchen and bedroom doors adhere to the fire risk assessment requirements. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	5 June 2025
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(b)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that knives, scissors and over-the-counter medication are safely stored.	5 June 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that they continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them. Risk assessments should be kept up to date and include details of the steps staff will take to manage any assessed risks. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)

- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)

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: SC406638

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Winsbeach Children's Home Limited

Responsible individual: Caroline Wilson

Registered manager: John Ofutu

Inspector

Ruth Okezie, Social Care Inspector

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