

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 privately owned children's home provides care for up to three children who have emotional or social difficulties.

The home was registered with Ofsted in 2010. The director of the company is also the registered manager and has been registered with Ofsted since the home opened in January 2010. He is suitably qualified for the role. The same person was also the responsible individual for the home. This changed in October 2022 when a new responsible individual was appointed.

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 February 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: 2 November 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/11/2021	Full	Good
06/01/2020	Full	Good
20/02/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
20/08/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff build positive relationships with children and help them to make positive changes in their lives. Those children who engage with staff do very well and make excellent progress from their starting points.

Staff support children to learn how to care for themselves and develop healthy lifestyles. Staff patiently and persistently encourage children to attend health appointments. A child recently saw a dentist after not going to the dentist for many years. Having realised the benefits, this child then asked to have an appointment with the oral hygienist.

Staff promote children's learning and educational attainments. One child's school attendance is now 100%, and his academic knowledge is improving. Work experience in theatres and other performance venues helps another child to develop skills by following their interests.

Children enjoy having opportunities to be creative. Examples include the wonderful artwork of one child and another child taking part in national dance competitions.

Children's positive experiences help them to build confidence and improve their social and communication skills. One mother was happy that her son now talks with her and clearly expresses his views. Before coming to this home, he often chose not to talk with anybody. The professional network commented that staff promote the voice of the child well.

Staff equip children with skills for life. Children receive good support to develop their independence and learn important skills, such as cooking, cleaning, budgeting and knowing how to keep safe online and in the community.

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

Safeguarding practices in the home are effective. Children are safer as a result. Some children with histories of engaging in violence towards people and property, fire-setting and harmful sexual behaviours have stopped showing these behaviours. One child's mother said that her mind has been at peace since her son moved to this home.

Excellent relationships between staff and children are a strong protective factor in children's lives. Emotional warmth and clear house rules promote children's sense of security. The children describe the rules as fair.

Children's positive experiences minimise the risk of them running away from home. For example, some children who used to go missing from home on a regular basis

have stopped going missing and exposing themselves to additional risks. However, this excellent progress is not always reflected in the children's risk assessments.

Close working partnerships with other professionals ensure that children receive wrap-around support to increase their safety. An example of this is how closely staff work with one child's social worker, youth offending officer, school mentor and therapist. This joint working is helping the child to make sense of their past behaviours and develop more constructive behaviours. The professionals from this network commented that staff provide sensitive care and are good advocates for children.

Regular health and safety checks ensure that the physical environment of the home is safe. Fire drills and discussions about fire safety help children to develop fire-safety awareness. This is particularly significant for the children with a history of fire-setting behaviours.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The quality of care and its impact on children are monitored effectively. The appointment of an independent professional as the responsible individual has strengthened the oversight of the care provided at this home. Monthly monitoring of the home by an independent person adds to the quality assurance processes. Staff complete monthly progress reports for each child.

Leaders, managers and staff are passionate about doing their best for children. They carry out their work in line with the values that are expressed in the home's statement of purpose (SOP). However, some information in the SOP is incorrect, such as staff's training in psychotherapy and the use of functional behavioural assessments.

Children benefit from being cared for by a stable staff team. Staff are committed to the children and are flexible about their working hours. No agency staff work at the home.

Leaders and managers provide a supportive environment for staff. Regular team meetings complement the individual supervision that staff receive. However, the manager's supervision has not been regular. There was a gap of almost 14 months. The frequency and the content of the manager's supervision sessions have recently improved.

Annual reviews of staff's individual performance support their professional development. Staff access relevant training to keep their knowledge up to date. All staff are suitably qualified. The deputy manager has obtained a higher-level qualification and another staff member is working towards it.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the risk assessments are reviewed and updated when the level of the risk changes. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- The registered person should ensure that the registered manager receives regular supervision that provides opportunities to reflect on the management of the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)
- The registered person should ensure that the statement of purpose accurately reflects the service provided. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)

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

Seka Graovac, Social Care Inspector

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