

SC407929

Registered provider: Our Place (2008) Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private company operates this children's home. It provides care for 10 children with learning disabilities (including autism spectrum disorder and associated challenging behaviours). Children may stay after they reach 18 years old.

The registered manager was registered with Ofsted in July 2017. The registered manager is appropriately experienced and qualified.

Inspection date: 20 January 2022

Date of last inspection: 3 August 2021

Judgement at last inspection: Requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has sustained effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, two children have moved out of the home and two children have moved in. These transitions have been well-planned. During the inspection, a social worker for one child explained that the child was welcomed into the home, and there was good information-sharing before their admission. As a result of this, the child quickly settled, is happy and has already made improvements in his communication skills.

The manager has made improvements to increase partnership working between the home, parents and local authorities. These include sending weekly care reports to family members and consultation cards to encourage them to give feedback on the care provided in the home. In addition, the manager has introduced a new visitor book, which asks each visitor to provide a comment on the home and set an agenda for the next visit. This helps the manager to understand the views of others.

Staff have made improvements to the children's care plans and activity planners. These documents now record detailed and clear information. Staff have created 'grab sheets' for each child, which provide staff with a quick overview of each child.

Children are involved in the weekly planning of activities, and staff support the development of children's interests and hobbies. During the inspection, children were helped to play with different games, such as creating shapes with slime and kinetic sand. In addition, the manager has embedded a new consultation tool for children to provide an opportunity for them to give feedback on their experiences. As a result, changes in the home are made in response to the voice of the child. This helps children to feel a sense of belonging and increases participation.

Since the last inspection, the home has been redecorated, and there have been improvements made to the children's bedrooms and the communal living spaces. The home now has a well-equipped library and a much-loved sensory room. However, during the inspection, it was identified that there has been a delay in reporting and fixing holes in the walls, which are near electrical sockets. This may have presented a risk to children and does not ensure a comfortable and safe environment.

Following the last inspection, managers commissioned external audits on medication and safeguarding practices in the home. The manager has responded to the shortfalls identified by the audits. In addition, a new independent visitor has been completing monthly audits of the home. These reports are detailed, and the

managers' report that they find these useful. However, actions are not always completed in a timely way.

There continue to be shortfalls in the management oversight and monitoring of the home. The manager failed to ensure that all advice given by the local safeguarding team was considered during an investigation of a staff member's practice. This demonstrates a missed opportunity to ensure effective safeguarding and continued improvements in the home.

There have been times when children have needed to be held to keep them safe. The recording of these incidents remains poor. This shortfall was identified at the last inspection and has not been fully addressed. Managers do not ensure that restraint logs are completed in line with regulations. For example, in one record viewed, it was not clear which staff member had received a debrief following the incident. Furthermore, records do not always fully describe staff's efforts to de-escalate and support the child during and following an incident. This lack of recording impacts on managers' oversight of how incidents are managed and is a missed opportunity to improve the standards of care.

At the last inspection in August 2021, nine requirements and one recommendation were raised. Managers have addressed six of the requirements and the one recommendation made at the last inspection.

This inspection raised a new shortfall. Managers have not ensured that all staff members working in the home have been provided with individual supervision. This means that some staff are not effectively supported, and it could lead to inconsistencies in staff practice.

Managers have carried out work to improve the standards of record-keeping in the home by introducing a new recording system. This work remains ongoing at the time of this inspection, and managers recognise this as an area for further development.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/08/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
27/11/2019	Full	Good
12/06/2018	Full	Good
13/09/2017	Full	Good

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 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 premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d)) This specifically relates to the condition of the home environment. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	25 March 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— 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f)(h))	25 March 2022

This specifically relates to the registered manager's oversight of the care provided and using monitoring and review systems to improve practice on the quality of care provided. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The registered person must ensure that— 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 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. (Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(c)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that physical intervention is recorded in line with regulation. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	25 March 2022
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that all staff working in the home receive practice-related supervision.	25 March 2022

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: SC407929

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Our Place (2008) Ltd

Responsible individual: Lena Graham

Registered manager: Sarah Davies

Inspectors

Sophie Hills, Social Care Inspector

Louise Battersby, Social Care Inspector

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