

SC422464

Registered provider: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by the local authority. The local authority submitted an application to Ofsted to vary the conditions of registration. This was reviewed during the inspection. Ofsted agreed to the changes.

The home provides care for up to 10 children. In emergency situations, the home can now have up to two children living in the home. The home also provides care through short-break arrangements for up to eight children with learning and/or physical disabilities, some of whom have complex health conditions.

The manager registered with Ofsted in 2011. She has significant experience and knowledge of working with children with disabilities and complex health needs.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 October 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
---	-------------

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 24 October 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/10/2022	Full	Good
28/09/2021	Full	Good
13/01/2020	Full	Good
05/04/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

In emergency situations, the local authority has accommodated children on a full-time basis in this short-break provision. This caused disruption to the children who accessed routine short-break stays. This disruption was managed through the planning and preparation of the children's visits. The staff worked hard to ensure that all children, no matter what their service offer was during these difficult times, received individualised care that met their identified needs.

Children make good progress from attending this short-break provision, and it has made a positive difference to their lives. The staff spend quality time with the children. This time and support have helped the children develop their verbal communication and independence skills. As a result, children have become more resilient, as they have been helped to reduce their anxieties and frustrations.

The relationships between the staff and the children are nurturing and calm. Staff know the children well and they make sure that the children's short-break stays are fun and entertaining. The children are relaxed in their environment and they enjoy being in the company of the staff and the other children.

The home is designed to provide a welcoming environment for the children. They have easy access to books, computer consoles, toys and a sensory room that they can use at their leisure. The cleaners take pride in their work and this is evident throughout the immaculately clean setting. The children are given the option to personalise their bedrooms during their stays. This helps the children to feel a sense of home. The garden space provides the children with an area for outside fun and exploration. This creates an environment where children enjoy spending time, so they flourish.

Children make progress with their personal care as a result of the support they receive from the staff. Staff support the children with their personal hygiene by implementing routine and boundaries during their stays. These are then shared with the children's family so that the care provided to the children remains consistent. Family members see the changes in their children and they know that this is due to the support and guidance that their children receive from the staff.

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

The children receive a high level of supervision and support from staff, which helps to keep them safe. Staff know the children's risks and vulnerabilities and they follow the children's up-to-date risk assessments. This reduces the likelihood of the children being exposed to unnecessary risks, and helps them to feel safe.

The staff have a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. They record any marks or bruises on the children clearly and transparently on body maps.

Leaders and managers create a timeline of events to determine how any marks or bruising may have happened. This practice enables further investigation, and promotes the protection of all children. It also ensures that any safety measures can be implemented when needed.

The staff work well with the children's parents, so they are clear when the children's medication regimes have changed. The staff comply with the medication procedures when they administer and record the children's medication. On the rare occasion when medication errors occur, the staff quickly identify and address these. This reduces the impact on the children.

Physical intervention is used as a last resort to keep the children and others safe. The records of these events are detailed and the manager's date and signature are evident. However, the management review and the debrief with the staff and child are not consistently recorded. Currently, the children's feelings are not explored when they have been involved in a physical intervention. This is a missed opportunity for the manager, staff and the children to learn from the incident.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The service continues to provide much-needed support and respite for an increasing number of children and their families. The registered manager has a wealth of knowledge and she supports a stable staff team to provide good care to the children. The staff are creative. They continue to improve the home, and provide the children with new opportunities to gain new experiences.

The registered manager takes complaints and allegations seriously. She responds appropriately and in line with the local authority's policy and procedure. The registered manager ensures that she is transparent in her approach by sharing all information with senior leaders in the local authority, the local authority designated officer and Ofsted. Parents spoken to said that they were happy with how complaints have been dealt with and that the registered manager was thorough when investigating concerns.

Children communicate their wishes and feelings. The staff understand the children's subtle cues and respond appropriately to their requests, excitement, feelings of unhappiness, pain or discomfort. Communication resources continue to be developed. Children are helping the staff to complete a 'I said you did'. This approach has helped one child receive the specific bedding they wanted for their stay.

Leaders and managers hold regular supervision sessions and team meetings. These provide an environment for the staff to reflect on the children's experiences, and discuss their own training needs. The support provided to the team allows the staff to develop their practice and gives them an opportunity to share their knowledge to better meet the needs of the children in their care.

Staff receive training through an online portal and during face-to-face sessions. They are up to date with their training around physical intervention, safeguarding, and medication. However, some staff are not up to date with their training around epilepsy. This does not ensure that all staff have the up-to-date information they need to manage a child who may have an epileptic seizure.

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
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— ensure that the staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c))	6 November 2023

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that within 48 hours of the use of a physical intervention, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so, has spoken to the user about the measure, and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate, and within five 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. ('Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards', page 50, paragraph 9.0)

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: SC422464

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Westgate Plaza, Westgate, Barnsley, South
Yorkshire S70 2RD

Responsible individual: Lisa Vaux

Registered manager: Diane Wharton

Inspector

Gemma McDonnell, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023