

SC436386

Registered provider: Knossington Grange School Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and is registered to provide care for up to six children who have social and emotional difficulties and learning disabilities. Currently, four children live in the home.

A suitably experienced and qualified registered manager leads the home.

Inspection dates: 7 and 8 November 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: 31 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/01/2023	Full	Good
16/03/2022	Full	Good
27/01/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
09/09/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

This is a home where children have fun. The children all get along, which provides the house with a feeling of being a home. The staff and the children continually review the home environment and make changes so that the children feel happy in their surroundings.

Children's health needs are met. All children are registered with the appropriate healthcare services. One child has recently been diagnosed with a complex health issue. Staff have gone above and beyond to support the child through the difficult time of them trying to come to terms with their diagnosis. Staff are continually on hand to offer support whenever children need it.

Staff prioritise children's education. They work closely with education colleagues to ensure that children go to school and achieve while they are there. A child who was attending school has recently chosen not to. Education and care staff are trying creative approaches to encourage the child's continued learning. This includes education staff coming to see them at the home to ensure that this link with school remains open.

Each child is making progress in their own way. One child is learning to regulate their emotions more. Instead of them becoming worried about something and distressed, they seek out staff to explore their worries. The mother of the child commended the staff for their support and guidance so that her child could achieve this.

Children are developing their independent living skills. Staff take time to explain what the children need to do. They offer encouragement and praise, which helps children to feel proud of themselves and what they achieve.

Moves into and out of the home are managed well. Records show that there is a multi-agency approach to moves and they are child-led. New placements of children are evaluated to ensure that new children can have their needs met in the home. If necessary, decisions are made to end placements in the interests of the children already living in the home.

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

The staff take time to get to know the children in the home. This allows them to continually build on their knowledge of the children and the most appropriate way to support them. Detailed risk assessments and behaviour support plans have been produced. These documents provide staff with the necessary guidance on how to meet the children's needs on a day-to-day basis.

When incidents occur, staff use de-escalation techniques to prevent them from escalating. In most instances, this approach works. Consequently, physical intervention is only used as a last resort. Incidents have the manager's oversight. This includes focusing on lessons learned and how practice can further develop. However, staff do not always ensure that children are spoken with following incidents.

When any conflict occurs in the home, staff act quickly to resolve the issues. Staff seek to have restorative discussions with those involved to quickly repair relationships. This helps the atmosphere in the home to remain light-hearted and relaxed, which benefits all the children.

The medication protocol has been reviewed and extra safeguards have been added. This has provided staff with a step-by-step process to follow that should limit medication errors in the future.

Staff understand the risks posed when children use mobile phones and the internet. An e-safety worksheet has been developed to explore children's knowledge about being safe online. This creative approach has encouraged children's participation to explore this area of worry. There are suitable measures in place in the home so that children remain safe while using the internet.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is truly dedicated to the children living in the home. The work she carries out every day is very child centred and focuses on the children making progress over time.

The manager is clear about the vision she has for the home. Her focus is on improving outcomes for children and providing them with the best possible care. This vision is communicated and continually reinforced with staff to ensure that they are clear about the manager's expectations when supporting children.

The team benefits from structured team meetings. An extra element of the meetings is for the staff to participate in an upskilling session. Furthermore, an in-house clinician leads reflective practice. This provides staff with a forum in which to gain new skills and knowledge, explore their own feelings and develop new ways of working.

The manager has worked hard to develop good relationships with external agencies and families. Communication between parties is good and the manager ensures that everyone is kept up to date regarding children's progress. A new monthly progress letter has started to be sent to important people in the child's life. This letter includes photos which capture special memories for the children.

The manager constantly seeks new ways to improve practice in the home. This has led to her developing forms and systems that support the members of her team in their role. Staff say that the changes made have been positive overall. Staff

acknowledge the recent challenges in the home but feel that those have built on the team's resilience and ethos of wanting the children in their care to achieve good outcomes.

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 registered person must ensure that— 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)(c)) This particularly relates to ensuring that staff and children are debriefed after measures of control are used.	15 January 2024

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: SC436386

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Knossington Grange School Limited

Registered provider address: Atria, Spa Road, Bolton BL1 4AG

Responsible individual: Charlotte Van Niekerk

Registered manager: Megan Reek

Inspector

Lizette Watts, Social Care Inspector

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