

SC453372

Registered provider: Richard Parker

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The children's home provides care and accommodation for up to four children and/or young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a private provider.

Inspection dates: 16 to 17 July 2019

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 September 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/09/2018	Full	Good
19/07/2017	Full	Good
11/01/2017	Full	Good
17/11/2016	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The relationships between staff and children and young people are good. Staff show genuine warmth and affection towards the children and young people and work quickly and effectively to build trusting and meaningful relationships with them. This helps children and young people to develop the confidence that they need to achieve their potential. One young person said, 'The staff make you feel wanted.' Another young person said, 'They're like parents.'

School attendance is very good for all children and young people. Staff work hard to ensure that children and young people receive the support they need to attend and achieve in school. Staff work closely with schools. A teacher said, 'Fantastic, couldn't speak more highly of them. In fact, we are due to do some joint training with them so that we are singing from the same hymn sheet when it comes to supporting [name].'

The children and young people are making good progress in developing independence skills. All children and young people are encouraged to work through an independence programme that helps them develop skills for later life. One young person has recently moved into a new room which has a fully fitted kitchen and bathroom facilities. This will provide the young person with the opportunity to further develop independence skills to support her transition when she eventually leaves the home.

Staff work hard to provide a safe and well-maintained home for children and young people to live in. Children and young people have been involved in the planning and refurbishment of communal areas. However, areas of the home including the downstairs toilet and the games room require further attention.

The children and young people are encouraged to be polite and courteous. Professionals and residents of the local community have complimented the children and young people on their manners. This reflects well on the children and young people and supports their integration into the community in which they live.

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

The children and young people spoken to all said that they felt safe at the home. All children and young people could identify a trusted adult whom they could confide in if they had any concerns. The staff have introduced a 'worry monster' so that children and young people can put a note inside the monster's mouth in the knowledge that staff will check the 'worry monster' daily. This adds to the sense of safety and security that children and young people feel.

Missing-from-home episodes are rare. When children and young people do go missing, staff do everything they can to find the children and young people. Relevant protocols are followed by the staff and records reflect the steps taken to return children and young

people home safely. This makes children and young people feel cared for and valued.

Staff use one-to-one sessions effectively with children and young people to help them understand how to keep themselves safe. The staff have a good understanding of the reasons why children and young people take risks. A calm and proportionate response to risk-taking behaviours enables children and young people to learn from their experiences.

Risks in the home are well understood. Risk assessments for individual children and young people moving into the home are good. This minimises disruption to children and young people already living in the home. Supervision levels are increased when necessary. This supports the children's safety both inside and outside of the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is passionate about the home and has an ambitious vision about what the children and young people can achieve. The manager knows the children well. She spends time with the children and young people daily to ensure that she has a clear understanding of their needs, behaviour and progress. Children and young people spoke very highly of the manager. One young person said, 'We really like [name].'

Care plans that link to the local authority plans for children and young people identify and mitigate risks effectively. Children and young people are encouraged to have an input into their plans, ensuring that they receive the support they need. However, the plans are not always updated by staff and this could lead to confusion about what information is relevant and correct.

Regular and effective supervision enables staff to reflect on their practice and discuss individual children and young people. The home receives support from a clinical psychologist who attends team meetings to offer advice and guidance on strategies to meet the needs of individual children and young people. Monthly meetings take place to discuss the development of the home and children and young people. To strengthen practice within the home, safeguarding should be made a standing item on all staff meeting agendas. This will enable staff to discuss any concerns and improve the culture of safeguarding within the home.

The manager and staff team work with a care team of other professionals including police, social workers, health professionals and education professionals. One professional said, 'The home have worked closely with school in terms of managing risk. They are good advocates for [name], the home fought to keep her in school.' Working together with other professionals ensures the best outcomes for children and young people.

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purpose of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6(2)(c)(i)) In particular, make the necessary refurbishments to the downstairs toilet and games room.	24/09/2019

Recommendations

- Supervision of staff practice should ensure that individual adults in the home are engaged in the safeguarding culture of the home, so they understand what they would need to do if they found other staff misusing or abusing their position to the detriment of the safety of a child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.14)
- In particular, safeguarding should be a stand-alone agenda item recorded consistently in each supervision and in every team meeting.
- Regulations 35-39 detail the records that must be kept in children's homes. All children's case records (regulation 36) must be kept up to date and stored securely whilst they remain in the home. Case records must be kept up-to-date and signed and dated by the author of each entry. Children's case records must be kept for 75 years from the date of the birth of the child, or if the child dies before the age of 18, for 15 years from the date of his or her death. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations

including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.3)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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: SC453372

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Richard Parker

Responsible individual: Richard Parker

Manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Mark Proffitt, social care inspector

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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

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