

SC457272

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2022.

Inspection date: 12 October 2022

Date of last inspection: 9 May 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The care of children

There are currently no children living at the home. Since the last inspection, one child has moved from the home in difficult circumstances. Following a brief introduction, the staff were unable to meet the child's changing needs or ensure the child's safety. The child has settled into his new home and has started to attend college.

In August 2022, one child moved into the home and settled quickly. The child had moved a considerable distance from family and friends. The manager completed an assessment of the child's needs prior to the move to ensure that the staff had the necessary skills to meet the child's needs. Despite many attempts, the manager was unable to secure a school placement for the child to start in September 2022. Because of this and the considerable distance, the child moved again to be closer to his home. Staff helped the child prepare for the move by arranging virtual meetings and taking him to visit his new home. Good planning helped lessen the child's anxieties and made it a positive experience.

Some improvements have been made to the home. The children have been involved in decorating their bedrooms. A chalkboard and neon strip lights have been put up. One child chose canvas wall art that reflects his interests and hobbies. This helped the child to feel that he belonged. However, the garden is not well maintained, the lawn is covered in fallen fruit that has rotted and there are unused goal posts and a punch bag that need to be removed.

Staff provide high levels of support to children to help them maintain long-distance relationships with their friends. For one child, this involved staff arranging overnight stays in a hotel after a long journey. The child was actively encouraged to think about his safety during these visits. The staff encouraged positive behaviour by providing clear boundaries about what was safe and acceptable. This respectful approach worked well for the child and, as a result, the visits were a success.

Staff offer children a wide range of community-based activities. Children's hobbies are encouraged. One child's interest in learning to play music has been supported by the purchase of an electric guitar.

The safety of children

Staff respond effectively when children go missing from the home. Records show that staff provide clear boundaries and use consequences to help children understand the repercussions of unwise decisions. Children understand that time

spent with friends could be restricted if they do not return at the agreed time or if they fail to answer calls from staff. As a result of this approach, children's missing-from-home incidents have been reduced.

Children's plans are clearly written. Risk assessments for children are detailed and include appropriate strategies to support staff in managing risks. These are regularly reviewed and updated following any incidents. This helps the staff to feel confident and respond consistently to the children.

Records show that staff take appropriate action to keep children safe. Staff work with external agencies to provide additional help for children in relation to specific behaviours and risks. Staff take time to discuss unsafe situations and behaviours. This has helped children to learn about substance misuse, internet safety and potentially dangerous situations. As a result of these conversations, children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe has improved.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The manager is well known to the children and regularly spends time with them. The manager has a good understanding of the children's needs and is committed to their care. She is persistent in her actions to involve the right professionals to help improve the children's safety. She actively challenges other services when responses are not effective.

The manager's monitoring systems provide effective oversight of the service and the children's progress. The manager has a clear understanding of the risks for children. This helps inform planning and provides the right levels of support for children.

Records demonstrate that staff are up to date with the home's mandatory training. The manager has ensured that the staff have received specific training such as LGBTQ+ and autism spectrum disorder awareness. Specific training ensures that staff are well equipped to meet the children's needs.

Despite the manager's repeated requests to children's social workers, there have been delays in getting documentation. One child's records have not all been made available. Delays in receiving a child's birth certificate hindered the child's registration with the local doctor.

Four of the six requirements raised at the full inspection have been met and two have been restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/05/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/05/2021	Full	Good
11/01/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
25/04/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be 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 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; and 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 staff— provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(vii)) In particular, ensure that the garden is well maintained. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	12 December 2022
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c)) In particular, ensure that the child's relevant education plans, formal review minutes and an up-to-date local authority care plan are kept in the child's records.	12 December 2022

This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
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Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC457272

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: Metropolitan House, 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar
EN6 1AG

Responsible individual: Michael Coleman

Registered manager: Joanne Gill

Inspector

Rachel Watkinson, Social Care Inspector

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