

SC472417

Registered provider: Hartlepool Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a local authority. It provides care for up to 4 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

There were 4 children living at the home at the time of the inspection, and all were spoken with.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2021.

Inspection dates: 27 and 28 January 2026

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: 21 January 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/01/2025	Full	Good
13/02/2024	Full	Good
08/03/2023	Full	Good
10/11/2022	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff provide children with a stable and loving home with consistent and predictable boundaries, underpinned by trusting relationships. The home is maintained to a high standard. This shows children that they are valued and that they deserve nice surroundings. Children say they like living at the home and feel part of a wider family.

The manager carefully considers the needs of all new children who come to live in the home and any negative effects it may have on the child and the other children. Children visit the home and get to know the staff and their peers before they move in. This helps children start to develop early relationships, which reduces their anxiety and makes their moves more positive.

Staff value education and encourage children to attend school. When children refuse to attend, staff are diligent in following a structured routine. This helps prepare children for their return to the classroom. Staff communicate effectively with other professionals, to find alternative education provisions when arrangements do not meet children's needs. As a result, most children are making educational progress.

Staff listen to children and capture their views in individual work and through children's meetings. Children contribute to their care planning, and any decisions made in the home. Staff support children to take part in the Children's Social Care Council, which builds their confidence in speaking up.

Children are helped to develop a range of practical skills in preparation for living more independently. This includes ensuring that children can make safe decisions about relationships, finances and being safe. When the manager feels the plan for a child increases their vulnerability, they effectively advocate for a more suitable option. This means children move on from the home when they are prepared to do so.

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

Children have up-to-date plans and risk assessments, with clear guidance for staff to keep them safe. Staff know and understand children's risks and recognise subtle changes in children's behaviour, taking prompt action to protect them when needed. The children all say that they feel safe at the home.

Staff follow procedures when a child is missing from home. They are diligent in trying to locate children and maintain good communication with children's families. Staff are curious about the reasons children go missing and support them to make safer decisions. This has helped reduce the number of missing episodes for children.

Staff know the online risks children can face. Staff work with children to develop their skills and abilities to recognise early warning signs and how to protect themselves. Staff

are proactive in safeguarding children while they process and take new learning. onboard their

Staff support children with positivity. They help children to recognise and manage strong feelings that lead to negative behaviours. When children's behaviour adversely affects one another, staff provide opportunities for children to take responsibility for their actions and to repair relationships. Staff de-escalate situations effectively, and children are rarely held to keep everyone safe.

There is a clear process for the management and administration of medication. When an error occurs, the manager fully investigates and takes effective action. Such practice prevents the likelihood of the same error happening again.

Staff are skilled in having difficult and sensitive conversations with children. Reflective group discussions with a therapist, ensures that this work increases children's confidence and self-esteem. Children trust staff and seek out their advice and guidance.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is qualified, experienced, and highly motivated to provide good quality care for children. They lead by example, setting high standards for staff to follow and helping children have positive childhood experiences.

The manager prioritises staff training and progress towards the required qualification. They provide tailored training to meet children's emerging needs. Staff feel supported and valued by the manager and there is low staff turnover. This provides stability for the children.

The manager has effective and efficient monitoring and review processes. The manager knows what is happening in the home and takes the initiative to ensure that necessary improvements lead to continued quality of care for the children.

The manager and her team work collaboratively with partner professionals involved in the children's care. They provide regular updates and clear communication. Professionals consistently praise the depth of the relationships staff have with children and recognise that this is the foundation for the progress children make.

Team meetings, staff appraisals and supervision sessions take place regularly. Reflective group discussions about safeguarding children, ensure staff think about what works well and how best to support children as a team. However, staff do not consistently reflect on their practice individually in supervision sessions. This prevents a deeper understanding of their practice.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendation

- The registered person should have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision sessions to discuss their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional. These sessions should allow them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

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: SC472417

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY

Responsible individual: Laura Gough

Registered manager: Zoe Davin

Inspector

Lisa Gordon, Social Care Inspector

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