

SC476289

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and provides care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out of the home and one child has moved in. Three children were being cared for at the time of this inspection.

There is a registered manager in post.

Inspection date: 29 January 2024

Date of last inspection: 1 August 2023

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.

The inspector has 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.

Children enjoy purposeful relationships with staff, who nurture and cherish them. They feel safe with staff and like to spend time with them. For example, one child likes to play aeroplanes and army figures with staff. Children and staff enjoy meals together, which promotes a family environment.

Staff know the children well. They have regular and meaningful one-to-one discussions with children. They are fun and creative in their approach, which ensures that children engage well. Children are helped to understand their experiences and feel understood.

Children do well in education. Staff support children and advocate for them when they find school difficult. When children cannot attend a school setting, they are creative and effective in their approach to home learning.

Children's views are regularly sought and acted on. For example, all the children have chosen their new bedroom decor. Children's bedrooms have been decorated to a high standard. As a result, they feel valued and have a sense of belonging.

Staff respond well to behaviours that are difficult to manage. Through trauma-informed training, they have gained a good insight into children's needs and how best to respond. While some progress has been made in the recording of information, further improvements are needed to ensure that it is recorded in a non-stigmatising way.

Staff know the risks children are exposed to and respond effectively. Up-to-date and robust risk assessments are in place and are followed by staff. They provide pertinent information, such as children's triggers and effective strategies.

Allegations against staff are duly managed. Children's concerns are taken seriously. Appropriate agencies, such as the local authority designated officer and Ofsted, are notified. Safeguards are put in place while investigations are carried out. Children and staff are well supported throughout the process.

The registered manager is passionate and dedicated. She is proactive in improving the service and is child focused. She is a strong leader and staff feel well supported.

The manager utilises learning from monitoring systems to develop the home. For example, the manager has made improvements to the recording practice following feedback from the home's independent visitor. She has also implemented additional training for staff as identified through her monitoring and oversight of the service.

Staff receive regular supervision. Important topics, such as safeguarding, are addressed. However, the details recorded are brief. Therefore, reflective discussions about staff's practice or children's needs are not apparent.

At the last inspection, two requirements and one recommendation were raised. The manager has been able to evidence that both requirements have been met. The manager has made progress towards meeting the outstanding recommendation, and there is a plan in place to fully meet this. A further recommendation has been made at this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/11/2021	Full	Good
07/01/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff record information in a non-stigmatising way that is helpful to the child. This recommendation was made at the last inspection and is restated. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional which allows 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)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC476289

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: Deborah Robertson-Kesterton

Registered manager: Hannah Stevenson

Inspector

Emma Dacres, Social Care Inspector

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