

SC480655

Registered provider: The Place Young Peoples Company Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private company. It is registered to provide 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 two children have moved in. Four children were living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The home is led by an experienced registered manager.

Inspection dates: 7 and 8 November 2023

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: 29 November 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/11/2022	Full	Good
06/10/2021	Full	Good
17/02/2020	Full	Good
21/11/2018	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is a cosy and welcoming environment. Photos of children and staff are proudly displayed. Children's bedrooms are personalised and well maintained. One child has a pet cat, which she enjoys looking after.

Children enjoy positive relationships with staff. However, one child sometimes feels like she would like more attention from staff. Staff have regular one-to-one discussions with children to help them understand their emotions and experiences. Staff use a trauma-informed model of care which helps children to feel understood and cared for. Children trust staff and feel able to confide in them.

Children are supported to maintain relationships with people who are important to them. Staff regularly take children to see their family and friends who live a considerable distance from the home. This helps to reduce children's feelings of loss and supports their identity.

Children's physical and emotional health needs are well met. Staff recognise when children need expert healthcare support, such as mental health services. Staff also help children to access sexual health advice. This ensures that children receive the right support to remain healthy and safe.

Children do well in education. Staff support them with homework and exam preparation. Two children have recently started college and are making good progress. Another child is about to begin an apprenticeship. Staff are also creative in their approach to home learning when children are unable to attend school.

Children feel able to talk to staff about their wishes and feelings. However, these discussions with children are not well recorded. Therefore, it is unclear how often children are being consulted and what action is taken by staff in response.

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

Staff understand the risks children are exposed to. They know what actions to take and the processes to follow. Risk assessments contain up-to-date information. They are updated after every incident and inform staff how to respond.

Staff respond effectively when children go missing from the home. Staff know what action to take and follow children's safety plans. They make every effort to try and find children. Staff liaise well with the local authority and police. They work with professionals to try and reduce the risks children are exposed to. Children have learned to trust staff enough to provide their whereabouts and allow staff to carry out safe-and-well checks. This is progress.

Staff are skilled at de-escalating incidents. They are effective in supporting children to manage their emotions. Children feel supported and understood. As a result, staff do not need to use physical restraint to manage behaviour.

Staff receive training and development opportunities that are specific to children's needs. Staff also receive group supervision from a psychotherapist to strengthen their trauma-based training. This ensures that staff understand children's needs and know how to respond.

The manager takes allegations against staff seriously. Appropriate agencies are promptly informed, such as Ofsted and the local authority designated officer. Safeguards are put in place while allegations are investigated, which ensures that children are protected.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Since the last inspection, there is a new registered manager in post. She is dedicated and enthusiastic. She provides strong leadership and is well respected by her team. Staff feel supported by the manager and like working at the home.

The manager has good oversight of the home. There are effective monitoring systems in place, such as weekly and monthly audits. The manager is aware of what is happening in the home daily. She knows the strengths and weaknesses of the service. This enables her to focus on specific areas of improvement.

The manager and staff work well in partnership with parents and professionals. For example, the local police liaison officer visits the home regularly to meet with staff and young people at risk. One parent said that the manager goes above and beyond to keep them updated.

Regular supervision sessions and team meetings take place where staff have reflective conversations and discuss important aspects of children's care, such as safeguarding. Team meetings are well attended and help the members of the team to bond.

Although staff work well as a team and enjoy close and supportive relationships, team morale is low. This is due to the team being understaffed and feeling overwhelmed by workloads. The manager is exploring what additional support can be put in place to rectify this problem.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children are consulted regularly on their views about the home's care, to inform and support continued improvement in the quality of care provided. Due consideration should be given to the child's cognitive ability in the development and implementation of any consultation processes. Children should be able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted on. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.11)
- The registered person should ensure that there are enough suitably trained staff, including someone in a management role, on duty to meet the assessed needs of all children in the home, and that those staff are able to respond to emergency placements, where accepted. The registered person must demonstrate every effort to achieve continuity of staffing so that children's attachments are not overly disrupted, including ensuring that the employment of any temporary staff will not prevent children from receiving the continuity of care that they need (regulation 31(1)). This recommendation was made at the last inspection and is restated. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 51, paragraph 10.1)

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: SC480655

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Place Young Peoples Company Limited

Registered provider address: 2 Lymevale Court, Lyme Drive, Parklands, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 6NW

Responsible individual: James Binyon

Registered manager: Sarah Cornish

Inspector

Emma Dacres, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

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

© Crown copyright 2023