

SC486398

Registered provider: Inspirations Leicestershire Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private provider. The home provides care for up to four children with emotional and/or social difficulties.

There is a registered manager leading the home.

Inspection date: 7 December 2023

Date of last inspection: 17 May 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, 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.

Children receive a very good standard of care. Children are settled and they have developed trusting relationships with the managers and staff. Children are happy. They like the staff who care for them and are relaxed in their company.

Children make good progress in education. Staff support children to attend education at local schools. Children who have had long periods out of education are now attending and making progress. Staff are positive about education, and they work very closely with education professionals. The communication between the staff and education professionals is good. This ensures that children receive consistent support to enable them to learn and make progress.

Children are given the appropriate support to enable them to express and share their emotions. For example, one child who is not confident in their communication was provided with pictures to support staff to understand their needs. This has allowed the child to explain how they are feeling and for staff to provide support.

Staff support children to share their views in regard to their home. Children and staff have written positive comments directed at children and staff. Comments are placed on a decorative tree that is in the communal area.

Children have not made any formal complaints. However, children have shared some concerns with staff, but staff do not always acknowledge these concerns. For example, one child expressed a concern, which was not escalated to a complaint as it should have been. As a result, children may not always feel safe and well cared for.

Children and staff have good relationships. Children present as relaxed and comfortable in the presence of staff. This contributes to children feeling safe and cared for.

When required, children are helped to manage harmful behaviours, and this can include the support of specialist, external professionals as appropriate. The manager is a good advocate for the children and ensures that there is a multi-agency approach to support the children to help them to make progress with this behaviour and feel safe.

Leaders and managers have identified that staff require additional support to understand their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. There are plans for staff to attend refresher training to ensure that all staff can meet the children's needs. This will ensure that staff understand children's risks and vulnerabilities. As a result, any

potential hazards or risks in the home and community are anticipated, and action is taken to ensure the safety of children.

Staff do not always support children to understand risk. One child was restricted from having access to their mobile phone due to a historic risk, and the reason for restricting another child's mobile phone use was unclear. As a result, staff's management of risk was inconsistent and confusing for the children.

The manager is relatively new. She has a clear vision for the home and children are at the heart of this plan. The manager has ensured that good progress has been made since the last full inspection. She is reflective of practice, thoughtful and seeks to improve practice. The responsible individual has identified systems to further assist the manager in their monitoring of the home's operation.

There have been challenges in appointing to current staff vacancies. However, staff retention is now much better. Staff feel well supported, and regular supervision and team meetings ensure that they are supported in their roles. New staff benefit from a thorough induction process, which helps them to get to know the children and understand their role. This results in a warm and inviting home environment where children flourish.

Working collaboratively with external partner agencies is a real strength in this home. This approach promotes the full involvement of the professional network around the child. There is very good daily communication between the care staff, school staff, and other professionals. This means that approaches to care are well coordinated. Feedback from social workers who have placed children at the home is positive. One social worker said, 'Children in this home are safe.'

There are some weaknesses in the manager's monitoring and oversight of risks. There is a lack of rigour with internal monitoring systems. This has prevented staff from understanding children's risks and improving their practice, which could better support children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/07/2022	Full	Good
09/06/2021	Full	Good
25/02/2020	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 protection of children Standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the Standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(b)) This refers to ensuring that incident records are clear, detailed and demonstrate management oversight, reflection, and learning. This is also in relation to the lack of clarity in care plans and risk assessments and staff skill and confidence in challenging and dealing with risks to children.	16 February 2024

Recommendations

- Staff should encourage children to share any concerns about their care or other matters as soon as they arise. Children must be able to take up issues or make a complaint with support and without fear that this will result in any adverse consequences. Regulation 39 sets out the requirements on the registered person to have a complaints procedure. Children must be aware of this procedure and be reminded of it as necessary. (Guide to Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards Page 22 4,13)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC486398

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Inspirations Leicestershire Limited

Registered provider address: 131a London Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5DP

Responsible individual: Joseph Monaghan

Registered manager: Chelsea Corkum

Inspector

Corline Parker, Social Care Inspector

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