

# 1254840

Registered provider: Compass Children's Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care for three children, aged from eight to 17 years, with learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessional compulsive disorder, specific language/communication difficulties, and/or sensory integration difficulties.

The manager has been at the home since November 2019, holds a level 5 diploma in leadership and management and was registered with Ofsted in August 2020.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

We last visited this setting on 8 October 2020 to carry out an assurance visit. The report is published on our website.

### Inspection dates: 19 to 20 May 2021

<b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account	<b>good</b>
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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:** 11 December 2019

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/12/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/02/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
24/09/2018	Full	Outstanding

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Staff speak passionately about the children and want the very best for them. They have a good understanding of each child's abilities and needs. The children are at ease and enjoy spending time with staff. Staff use play and fun activities to strengthen relationships, develop communication and focus, and reward positive interaction. As a result, the children are settled in the home and making good progress.

Staff and teachers work well together to meet the children's educational needs. Staff have been creative in providing alternative educational activities during the COVID-19 restrictions, and have now successfully supported the children to return to school. One child has been delayed in starting a new school. The registered manager has been proactive in advocating on the child's behalf and ensuring that interim measures are in place.

The registered manager, staff and children are continuing with their plan to improve the home's environment. The home is in the process of being painted throughout. Communal areas and the children's bedrooms are being redecorated, and new furniture has been ordered. These developments ensure that the home continues to provide the children with a homely environment to live in and to enjoy.

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

Safeguarding and practice concerns are well managed by the registered manager, with prompt monitoring of incidents and quick referral to appropriate agencies. The manager works in partnership to address shortfalls. Recent medication errors have been thoroughly investigated. Actions have been taken to address shortfalls and improve practice. An independent medical professional has now been commissioned to review the revised procedures. This management oversight provides the opportunity for improvement to practice.

Due to the children's complex needs, they can at times display extremely difficult and challenging behaviours. Staff have a good understanding of these behaviours and know what action to take to address them. Staff support the children to develop positive behaviours. This includes staff taking a child-centred approach and following detailed behaviour management plans and risk assessments. This ensures the safety and welfare of children and has led to a reduction in the number of incidents.

Staff communicate with the children using a variety of communication tools that are individual to each child. For example, staff are trained in Makaton, and key staff have attended safeguarding Makaton courses. This ensures that the children's wishes and feelings are understood and acted on. It also helps them to understand new situations and learn to stay safe. For example, a social story was used to successfully prepare a child before having dental treatment. Makaton is being used

to help children understand the appropriateness of different forms of touch with staff and with parents.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The registered manager and staff have a clear understanding of the progress that the children make. This is supported by internal and external monitoring, which show that the children make good progress over a sustained period.

The registered manager and staff are knowledgeable about the complex needs of the children. They work effectively with partner agencies and parents. This collaborative working ensures that consistent approaches to care are promoted. This, in turn, enhances the children's sense of stability and security.

Staff are well supported to develop their professional practice and skills. They have attended training that is relevant to the needs of the children, and they receive reflective supervisions and attend regular, informative team meetings. They place great emphasis on creating a nurturing environment that promotes healthy lifestyles, enjoyable and stimulating activities, and a sense of belonging and good self-esteem.

The registered manager has a clear understanding of the strengths of the service and areas that she wants to develop. She has a development plan that she regularly reviews to ensure that actions are achieved within timescales.

## **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:** 1254840

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Compass Children's Homes Limited

**Registered provider address:** Mountfields House, Epinal Way, Off Squirrel Way,  
Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3GE

**Responsible individual:** Mark Ryder

**Registered manager:** Margaret Ames

## Inspector

Dawn Bennett, Social Care Inspector

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