

1276719

Registered provider: Devon and Cornwall Autistic Community Trust (t/a Spectrum)

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provider states within the statement of purpose that this home provides long-term placements for up to three children aged between 11 and 18. These children may have autism spectrum disorder and/or associated conditions. The home is owned by a private organisation.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since March 2021.

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 21 and 22 January 2021 to carry out a monitoring visit. The report is published on our website.

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 May 2021

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: 14 November 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/11/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
20/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/03/2019	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

One child currently lives at this home. In line with their current needs, the home is sparsely decorated. Consistent attempts are being made to reintroduce soft furnishings and more homely decorations.

The child now attends school daily on the school site rather than a tutor visiting them at the home. They have started to spend time with their peers at school, which they greatly enjoy. Increasing the time they spend with other children is a goal.

Staff have skills to undertake extra-curricular and enjoyable activities. They are providing the child with varied experiences, including skateboarding and Spanish lessons. They also plan to provide surfing and swimming lessons in the near future.

The child was observed to have good relationships and interactions with staff. The child was dancing and singing with staff, and their requests for physical affection were met appropriately with hugs.

Staffing has been changeable. However, this has not had a significant impact on the child's progress. The team has begun to stabilise, and good practice is being embedded.

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

There have been no child protection referrals since the last inspection. Safeguarding is promoted through close communication with other professionals, in line with the child's needs. Some restrictive practice still takes place. However, this is only used as a last resort. For example, the use of the dining room as a calming space is still happening at times to keep the child safe. The child is always supported by at least one staff member on these occasions.

Clear and consistent boundaries have had a significant impact. The child is increasingly able to manage difficult emotions. This has resulted in the limited use of physical interventions. There have been no ground holds since February.

Incidents are well managed, and each are reflected on by the registered manager to support learning about how staff respond to behaviour. The child's views are sought after incidents happen.

The child's needs, wishes and feelings are consistently sought and listened to. They are encouraged to make choices and to express how they feel, which directly informs day-to-day care arrangements.

A healthy and varied diet is enjoyed by the child. This demonstrates significant progress from previous concerning vomiting, and regurgitation behaviours. These are now minimal. The child has also had a medication reduction, which was promoted by the registered manager.

Notifications after significant incidents are not always completed in line with regulation. This prevents external partners from providing scrutiny of these incidents and understanding the child's lived experience.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

This home is well managed. The registered manager has a good oversight of the home. She is providing a good standard of parenting. This approach is being embedded throughout the staff team.

The registered manager advocates with passion for children. She continuously champions the child's best interests. Good communication with other agencies and professionals has promoted positive outcomes.

Records are detailed and depict nurturing approaches. De-escalation techniques are being used consistently, which is reducing incidents. Management oversight is evident throughout practice within the home.

Analysis of behaviour patterns and use of restrictive practice are lacking. This does not demonstrate how the registered manager is driving the lessening of restrictive practice or promoting learning opportunities.

Staff have been provided with specialist training to meet the child's needs. Further training is due to be facilitated soon.

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
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to their full potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should have a good understanding of the positive progress made by the child. This includes quantifying and reflecting on how often restrictive practices are used to inform ongoing care planning and to demonstrate progress.</p>	18 June 2021
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))</p>	18 June 2021

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: 1276719

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Devon and Cornwall Autistic Community Trust (t/a Spectrum)

Registered provider address: Lakeside Offices, The Old Cattle Market, Porthleven Road, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 0SR

Responsible individual: Mark Beniston

Registered manager: Wendy Burgess

Inspector

Polly Soper, Social Care Inspector

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