

2583028

Registered provider: The Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care for four children between the ages of five and 17. According to the home's statement of purpose, it provides care for children with social, emotional and behavioural challenges, as well as some form of deafness or communication difficulties.

The manager is registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 7 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 11 October 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, leaders and the manager have carried out a full recovery plan. The manager is now registered. He has rebuilt a stable, staff team where bank and agency staff are well managed. Staff are more confident and able to meet the needs of children. The manager describes how he has 'moved from a firefighting phase to proactive planning and development' of the home.

The children who live in the home have seen an ongoing transformation of their living environment. One child is pleased with the large cartoon mural on the wall of the games room. The children are happy to talk about the fun activities captured in their photos displayed in the home. One child is delighted to point out a photo taken when he held his first sparkler on bonfire night.

The progress of one child has been considerable since his arrival at the home. Staff help him to cope with new experiences. He is beginning to explore the world around him. Staff support his social, emotional and behavioural skills. He feels safe and staff listen to him. He trusts staff. He has gained in confidence and is able to join in new activities. He has input into the daily menu and is developing healthier eating options.

The manager and staff put in place reasonable boundaries and routines to support the children. Staff have successfully set up a bedtime routine with one child. His sleep pattern has stabilised. Staff have been able to reduce his medication in consultation with other agencies. This also has a positive impact on the child's height and weight. He is more able to engage at school.

The manager and staff are familiar with the case management system and how to record incidents effectively. These records are efficiently cross-referenced across the children's files. Staff include a detailed account from the children. Children describe positive aspects of their care.

Leaders and the manager provide good management oversight, which is used to develop practice in the home. For example, the manager identified that a different approach was required to meet one child's needs. He worked with a mental health provider to arrange a bespoke training workshop for staff. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of incidents involving the child.

The manager has good working relationships with other agencies and professionals. He regularly speaks to other professionals to monitor the health and education of the children he supports. He invites other professionals to team meetings to provide

expert advice on how to meet the children's needs. The manager is carefully planning the transition of one child to supported living, close to her family. He talks to the child, the local authority and the new provider to ensure that there is a positive transition for the child. He shares strategies on what works for the child to make sure she continues to receive effective support.

The manager has designed the training programme around the needs of the children. The manager invites external scrutiny, for example, from the school nurse, to provide a quality assurance role and audit the progress of the key aspects of the recovery plan.

The manager has met the requirements and recommendation from the previous inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/10/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: 2583028

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education

Registered provider address: The Deaf Academy, 1 Douglas Avenue, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2AU

Responsible individual: James Heaver

Registered manager: Alex Stephens

Inspector

Justine Hosking, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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