

1231399

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is one of a number operated by a private provider. The home provides care and accommodation for three children with behavioural and/or emotional needs.

The current manager was registered with Ofsted in June 2020 and holds the relevant qualification.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 March 2022

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: 12 March 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/03/2020	Full	Good
05/12/2018	Full	Outstanding
15/08/2017	Full	Outstanding
21/11/2016	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

There are currently three children living in the home. Children enjoy good-quality care based on individualised care plans. Staff know the children well and know how to meet their individual physical and emotional needs.

Most children have made good progress with their education. One child is currently receiving home tutoring while a new school is found. This is taking some time and the child is losing focus, which is impacting on other areas of her life. The manager has made attempts to speed this process up but now needs to escalate this to ensure the child's education needs are met.

Children's health needs are met. They have access to the in-house therapist, whom all the children have a good relationship with. The therapist works with staff to help them better understand the children's behaviours. All staff are trained in therapeutic parenting. This tailored care contributes to children receiving support and guidance in relation to their emotional and psychological well-being.

Children are encouraged to develop age-appropriate independence skills. Children are supported to develop the necessary skills for the next step in their lives. One child does not have a pathway plan and the manager needs to work with the local authority to ensure independence work is planned for the child.

Children's experiences of arriving at and leaving the home are generally positive. One child has moved on to successfully live independently. Two children's placements were ended in an unplanned way after safeguarding incidents. These moves were managed sensitively to minimise the negative impact on the children involved.

The home environment is very good. Children have personalised their own bedrooms. There is a beauty room where the children receive rewards of beauty treatments from a member of staff who has the appropriate qualifications.

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

Children are safeguarded effectively because of the care they experience. Children said they feel safe living in the home. However, the quality of written risk assessments is variable. A lot of information is duplicated and some plans to manage the risk are not up to date. This has not compromised safeguarding for the children.

Children's incidents of going missing have reduced since living at the home. When children are missing, staff go to great lengths to find them and get them home safely. Staff know the children well and the details of their friends and places they frequent. Information-sharing with key agencies is timely and recording of the

incidents is clear. This good practice means staff can work towards getting children home quickly.

Staff implement routines and consistent boundaries for the children to promote positive behaviour. Staff further promote positive behaviours through incentives, rewards and positive relationships. There have been no physical interventions since last inspection. This shows that staff can use their skills to de-escalate challenging behaviour.

Allegations against staff are managed quickly and effectively, with all the correct procedures being followed. This means that the children are safeguarded appropriately. Staff are thoroughly vetted and assessed before any appointment is confirmed. These safe recruitment procedures make sure that children are protected by preventing unsuitable adults from working in the home.

The home is physically safe and secure. Regular checks are completed by staff to ensure children are protected from potential hazards.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is managed by an experienced and qualified manager. It is clear the manager is passionate about the children and has high ambitions for them. This ethos runs through the home and there is a positive atmosphere.

There have been some changes to the staff team since the last inspection. However, the home is now fully staffed and the current staff team has a good range of age and gender, giving children the opportunity to form different relationships with different people.

Leaders and managers have good oversight of the home. Effective monitoring and evaluation of the home allow the manager to identify any areas for development and make plans to address these.

Staff are suitably qualified or currently undertaking their qualifications in residential childcare. The comprehensive training programme in place ensures that staff have the necessary skills to meet the complex needs of the children they look after.

Children are suitably matched before coming to live in the home. Impact risk assessments are completed to a high standard. This informs placement decisions around the suitability of new admissions. This ensures that the needs of the children are met safely.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff continually and actively assess the risks to each child and make sure that the plans in place to manage these risks are accurate and clear. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards, page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- The registered person should work with the placing authority to ensure that care plans are clear and understood by the child. In particular, the registered manager should ensure that the children have a clear pathway plan. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.2)
- The registered person should challenge the relevant person when services are not provided to meet a child's needs. This is particularly in relation to challenging and escalating a lack of education provision for one of the children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 12, paragraph 2.8)

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: 1231399

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Registered provider address: Sandcastle Care Ltd, 49 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool
FY3 9DG

Responsible individual: Andrew Rourke

Registered manager: Emma Nulty

Inspector

Rachael Crook, Social Care Inspector

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