

1254740

Registered provider: South West Childcare Services

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provider states in their statement of purpose that they provide care for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager resigned in July 2021. A suitably experienced manager has been appointed and has submitted her application to Ofsted for registration.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 May 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: 25 November 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: improved effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/11/2021	Interim	Improved effectiveness
09/06/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/09/2019	Full	Good
16/07/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Following a full refurbishment, children now live in homely and comfortable surroundings, having been involved in choosing colours and decoration that help them feel fully involved in the way the home looks and is run. The children look after the house rabbit and grow vegetables, and the home fits suitably alongside those in the local community.

Both children have made progress, despite difficult personal circumstances, through supportive, caring and considerate relationships with the permanent staff team. Significant progress has been made in terms of health, diet, routines and boundaries. A range of exciting activities and trips are captured sensitively in memory books and alongside diaries that demonstrate children's progress and celebrate the positive things in their lives.

Time with family members is supported well and in a way that best suits the children. The staff team has created an environment where children are opening up about how they feel about difficult subjects and learning how to manage their emotions in more positive ways.

One child has moved into the home since the last inspection and has been supported well through family court processes. Despite multiple changes of social worker and uncertainty about the plan for her future, staff have created a sense of stability at a time of change. This is well supported by the input of the home's therapist.

Going to school on a regular basis has been difficult for one child to maintain, but they have completed school work online daily, supported by staff. The manager has advocated well for increased support from the virtual school in terms of equipment. However, in the run-up to examinations, all the professionals involved need to increase their focus on how to support this child back into the classroom.

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

From the point that new children arrive, the impact on the home and how to manage a change in dynamics is carefully assessed. Shortly afterwards, these risks are revisited, and practical plans are put in place to support children to understand the impact of their behaviours. As a consequence, the home does well at mitigating the impact of previous harm on children. This has also helped managers and staff to identify strategies aimed at protecting children from present or future risk.

Following a settled period, both children recently reacted to upsetting news about their families by going missing and physically challenging staff members. This was dealt with well, children were supported to return home. The police were appropriately informed and involved, and direct work has taken place to help

understand the reasons behind these behaviours. Consequently, by the time of the inspection this period had calmed.

Staff are alert to the risks of online exploitation and support children well to develop ways of keeping themselves safe. When risks from people outside of the home are identified, other professionals are kept informed and alerted to the risks posed to other children in the community. Risk management meetings are convened quickly and are used to focus safety plans on the most important issues for children.

The new staff team has been recruited safely and offers a broad range of skills that give children several options about who to confide in when they are struggling. Staff were observed reacting to triggers and cues that signified changes in the children's mood, and to support, comfort or divert accordingly.

The home itself is safe and secure. Minor issues regarding the process for ensuring that sharps are locked away and keys to the home are kept safe have been addressed promptly.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager of the home has overseen a successful overhaul of the house and the staff team since the last full inspection. The manager is currently going through the registration process with Ofsted and the responsible individual has offered regular, additional support while awaiting the completion of this process. A detailed and regularly updated development plan demonstrates that the children are central to the planning and the ethos of the home as laid out in its statement of purpose.

A mixture of experienced and new staff have had a well-structured induction that includes all key issues relevant to the needs of the children that live in the home. Further training in identifying anxiety, contextual safeguarding, self-harm and promoting empathy have had a positive impact on how the children are cared for.

The manager responds positively to the findings of the monthly independent person reports. Notifications to the police and to Ofsted were not always made at the time of the last inspection, but this and other requirements have been addressed. There have been several examples of the manager advocating for children effectively and escalating issues to the local authority social worker and managers. In one case, the promotion of education in school requires further attention.

Supervision is regular and staff report positively on the ethos of the home and the leadership of the manager. Records of supervision could be more detailed, but staff demonstrate a good understanding of what the children need and what is expected of them.

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 education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child overcome any such barriers;</p> <p>help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment;</p> <p>promote opportunities for each child to learn informally;</p> <p>help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(x))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that children have full access to formal mainstream education</p>	2 July 2022

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: 1254740

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: South West Childcare Services

Registered provider address: Maybrook House, Second Floor, Queensway,
Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4AH

Responsible individual: Guy Mammatt

Registered manager: Hilary Bance

Inspectors

Steve Lowe, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022