

2483691

Registered provider: Lioncare Ltd Operating As The Lioncare Group

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The children's home is privately owned. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children who may have social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

The manager has been registered since 15 November 2021.

Inspection dates: 28 to 29 June 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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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: 12 May 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/05/2021	Full	Good
18/02/2020	Full	Good
19/12/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children living in the home currently are settling in and developing positive relationships and routines with staff as the home has undergone a period of transition. The previous group of children have all left in quick succession. Some of these moves were planned and some were unplanned due to risks being presented. Most children who have left remain in contact with the staff. One child wrote individually to members of staff to thank them for the care they had received. This showed that staff in the home had made a meaningful impact on the child.

Children moving on have mostly done so positively. One child who left the home in an unplanned move has maintained regular contact with staff since leaving. One child moved to another home after a five-month period of planning, and another child moved to a semi-independent placement. One child has returned to live with family and another child has moved to a more specialist placement designed to better cater for their needs. Feedback from one child's social worker was positive. They said, 'I will be forever grateful to them, as will [child]. I would not hesitate in putting another young person with them.'

Both children in the home have been carefully matched, and transitions have been completed at a pace that supports each child. Staff have visited the children at school and at their previous placements. Careful consideration is given to children's interests and risks. One child who is planning to move in the next few months is already making links with staff and children to ensure that they fit in seamlessly with the children already living in the home. This enables children to prepare for their move to a new home.

Children have good school attendance. One child who has only recently moved in is being supported by the provider's school to receive their education at home. A careful transition plan has been put in place to enable the child to start to attend school from September.

Children like living at the home and enjoy the activities on offer. Staff are knowledgeable about children's plans, their risks and the things they like to do.

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

During an unsettling period earlier in the year, there has been a high number of children going missing from home, incidents of physical intervention, and complaints from children. Leaders attribute this to the dynamics of the group and the loss of significant staff who have moved from the home. Since this time, the group of children has changed, managers have reflected on past events and implemented changes, and some new staff have been inducted into the home, which is having a positive impact on the children's experiences.

When children go missing from home, staff respond swiftly and follow children's missing-from-care plans. Staff take steps to locate children as quickly as possible. When children return, staff are supportive and explore with them the reasons why they have gone missing and use this information to update the child's risk assessment.

On one occasion when a child left the home distressed, they were followed by a member of staff. The child went to the beach and entered the sea during the change of tide. The member of staff attempted to reassure and support the child but was unsuccessful. As an emergency measure, the member of staff risked their own safety to save the child before the coastguard and ambulance arrived. This shows a depth of care to a child's welfare.

When children display behaviour that is not socially acceptable, staff provide bespoke support. Group consultancy meetings and reflective debriefs help to identify triggers to behaviour. This has led to staff being aware of children's sensory needs and led to improvements in practice. For example, staff have become aware of one child's difficulties to changes in their routines.

When behaviours become unsafe, staff are trained in physical intervention. Staff are clear that this is only used as a last resort.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders have taken learning from past incidents to help to improve children's care.

Children know how to complain and can exercise their rights. Each of the complaints made by children are managed effectively, whether this be about the conduct of staff, the dynamics of the group or internal policies.

Allegations against staff are reported quickly, and external agencies are used to investigate if necessary. Leaders have taken learning from allegations. For example, this has led to changes in staff and staff receiving additional training.

Despite improvements in many areas of the home, management monitoring of records is not yet effective. Oversight of staff training, shift planning documents and the completion of one recent complaint outcome has left some avoidable gaps.

Staff are positive about the provider's internal qualification and the impact this has on their role. Staff feel supported in supervision and able to reflect on practice. This helps them in supporting children in their care.

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 fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (2)(h))</p>	31 August 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: 2483691

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lioncare Ltd Operating As The Lioncare Group

Registered provider address: Lioncare House, 58a Livingstone Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 3WL

Responsible individual: Matthew Vince

Registered manager: John James

Inspector

Matt Nicholls, Social Care Inspector

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