

# 1223681

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to three children who may be socially and emotionally vulnerable.

The home's registered manager has been in post since April 2021.

### Inspection dates: 11 and 12 October 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:** 11 November 2021

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** improved effectiveness

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Inspection judgement</b>
11/11/2021	Interim	Improved effectiveness
19/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/10/2019	Full	Outstanding
04/12/2018	Full	Good

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Since the last inspection, children have had positive experiences in this home and have been enjoying their day-to-day life. Children are well cared for and have positive relationships with staff. One child who had recently moved back to their birth family said, 'It's homely, caring, respectful, felt like home. Staff were always there for me when I needed them.'

Children attend education which is tailored to meet their individual needs. One child has been supported to transition from a specialist provision to college, to study health and social care. This provides children with ongoing learning opportunities.

The home has a therapist who is an integral part of the team. Effective partnership working between the therapist and staff supports children's emotional well-being, through therapy sessions and staff consultations. Therapists attend team meetings and regularly provide further training to staff. This means that staff develop their skills and knowledge in understanding trauma-based behaviours, which provides children with consistent care.

Staff support children to contribute to the plans for their care. Children are encouraged to share their views and wishes before any review meetings. This ensures that children's views and wishes are acted upon and improves their confidence and self-esteem.

A requirement was made at the last inspection in respect of maintenance of children's bathrooms. This issue has not yet been rectified.

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

Staff understand and follow whistle-blowing and safeguarding procedures. For example, when a child made an allegation to a member of the team about other staff members, this allegation was reported to the manager, who quickly and robustly initiated safeguarding procedures. This action safeguards children while allegations are being investigated.

Children who are at risk of self-harming have detailed risk assessments in place. A multi-agency approach, including the home's therapist and child and adolescent mental health services, assesses potential risks to ensure that a cohesive safety plan is in place which staff understand and can manage. While staff understand the procedures to follow when a child has self-harmed, they must ensure that any need for medical attention is escalated without delay, to ensure children's safety.

Staff support children to understand their behaviours and how to keep themselves safe by carrying out direct work. This helps children to understand and reduce their

risk-taking behaviours. As a result, one child has made good progress in reducing their number of missing-from-home incidents.

The manager has robust checks in place when recruiting new staff. This supports children's safety by ensuring that only suitable people are working in the home.

Medication is stored safely. Records demonstrate that staff understand how to administer, check and record medication appropriately. This ensures children receive the correct medication at the appropriate times, and contributes positively to children's overall well-being, health and safety.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

Following a number of changes in the management and staff teams, staffing is now stable. The registered manager and responsible individual have mentored and developed the deputy manager to take on the role of manager. Throughout these changes, staff have felt supported.

Good collaborative working means that leaders and managers have positive working relationships with those involved in children's care. One social worker said: 'I am impressed with the placement. My child is provided with the best care. Safeguarding has always been a priority. Not only am I impressed, but I have had extremely positive feedback from virtual schools and the independent reviewing officer.'

Staff are committed to training and are up to date with mandatory training, which helps them develop in their role. The manager oversees creative team meetings, which include team-building activities. This develops relationships in the home and improves morale. Furthermore, staff feel valued and invested in, which has a positive impact on the home.

The manager's internal monitoring is effective and demonstrates her understanding of the children, the staff team and how the home is operating. These systems also help the manager identify any shortfalls, areas for development and good practice.

## 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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children;</p> <p>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—</p> <p>meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i))</p> <p>Specifically, ensure that children's bathrooms and showers are regularly maintained.</p> <p>This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.</p>	<p>25 November 2022</p>
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare.</p>	<p>25 November 2022</p>

(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi))

Specifically, seek medical attention for children without delay to ensure their safety. When this is out of working hours, staff need to notify the emergency duty team and the home's on-call manager.

## 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:** 1223681

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Sandcastle Care Ltd

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

**Responsible individual:** Amber Steib

**Registered manager:** Michael Birtles

## Inspector

Nicola Clements, Social Care Inspector

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