

SC032838

Registered provider: Appletree Treatment Centre Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. The home is registered to care for up to eight boys, aged between six and 12 years, who have suffered early childhood trauma and are likely to experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2014.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 November 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: 3 August 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/08/2021	Full	Outstanding
12/02/2020	Full	Outstanding
30/05/2018	Full	Outstanding
27/06/2017	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Seven young children were living in the home at the time of the inspection and were making good progress. The home is a stable and settled environment, and many of the children have lived here for several years. This provides children with stability and belonging, which improves their feelings of being secure in this home. Children are observed to have good attachments with staff, who provide a high level of care. A child told the inspectors: 'I love living here.'

All of the children receive therapy. Effective partnership working between therapists and staff supports improvements in the children's emotional well-being, through therapy sessions and staff consultations. This integrated approach means that therapists and staff use the same therapeutic model, resulting in children receiving consistent care.

Children lead healthy lifestyles. The staff provide a healthy, nutritious diet, with a wide range of food choices. Children have structured daily routines, which provides children with safe and predictable care. While children's health needs are generally promoted well, on one occasion, staff did not seek medical guidance in relation to a child's injury.

Children arrive in the home with a history of educational disruption. Children are now attending education full time, with 100% attendance. A child, who prior to coming to the home was unable to read, is now reading freely without support. Another child has made progress in being able to study independently for longer periods. Children also learn skills they need for study, work and relationships. This demonstrates that children are being supported to make significant progress from their starting points.

Children have positive play experiences while living in the home. Through play, the children learn about the world and themselves, for example from den building, playing in their fairy garden and caring for their pet guinea pigs. They are also given opportunities to experience a wide range of activities in the community, including swimming, football and trampolining. This helps children to develop their social skills and expand their friendship networks.

Children have also been on holidays. These holiday experiences have been captured on video for the children, which are set to music. This careful and sensitive record means that children leave the home with creative memories of their experiences.

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

Children have developed trust in the people who care for them. They can identify a range of staff that they can speak with to share any worries or fears. As a result, children feel safe and well protected in their home. Children enjoy spending time

with each other and any disagreements are dealt with effectively to maintain and restore positive relationships.

Assessments for the management of risk clearly describe behaviours affecting the children when they are in and out of the home. They detail management of risks and levels of risk. Risks are predominantly low and continue to remain low while children are living in the home. Strategies are brief, but relevant, child-friendly and clear. These support staff to manage children's individual risks effectively.

Praise and rewards are used regularly to celebrate and promote positive behaviour. The staff do not agree with punitive measures which do not fit in with their therapeutic ethos. Children are educated about their choices and responses, and what the natural consequences may be. Reflective discussions are used to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour on others. These help children to develop their skills in relation to self-awareness and being able to understand others' feelings.

Staff know children well and use their positive relationships with children to de-escalate incidents. When staff have had to physically hold children, restraint records are detailed and provide appropriate review following incidents. This allows the manager to use lessons learned to improve the care provided to children and reduce further incidents. However, records would benefit from clarity and improved wording to demonstrate the extent of the measures used.

Medication is stored safely. However, children were not administered medication in line with medication guidance on one occasion. This has a negative effect on children's health and safety.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is dedicated, resolute and committed to providing a good standard of quality care to children. She leads by example, is qualified and experienced, and has worked in the home for many years. She has effective leadership skills and provides staff with a high level of support. This has created a stable staff team, which in turn provides consistent care for children.

The staff receive regular supervisions and annual appraisals which are effective in promoting ongoing development of the staff team. Staff are committed to ongoing learning and are up to date with mandatory training. The training package is extensive and bespoke to the young children's presenting needs. However, a small number of staff need to update their knowledge in epilepsy training.

Staff understand, and are skilled in responding to, young children's needs. Young children report that staff have time for them, care about them and help them through challenging situations. Children understand, and feel proud of, the progress they have made.

The manager and staff work collaboratively with a range of agencies, professionals and birth families to meet the needs of the children. A parent said: 'I have brilliant communication with staff, who support family time and are respectful of my family. They understand my child's needs well, which is why he is making such good progress.'

Managerial oversight of the home is good. There are strong monitoring and auditing systems in place, which ensures that all documentation is completed to a good standard.

Managers and staff are strong advocates for young children. They are committed to supporting young children to develop the skills and resilience they will need to have positive futures.

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 health and well-being standard is that—</p> <p>the health and well-being needs of children are met;</p> <p>children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that each child has access to such dental, medical, nursing, psychiatric and psychological advice, treatment and other services as the child may require. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that children access medical attention after an accident in a timely manner.</p>	22 December 2022
<p>The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home.</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that staff safely administer medication in accordance with administration guidance.</p>	22 December 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that physical intervention records provide sufficient detail and clarity so that they can be understood by children and for the

purpose of internal and external review. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

- The registered person should ensure that staff have the relevant skills and knowledge to meet children's needs. In particular, ensure that the staff receive any bespoke training to support children who have epilepsy. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 34, paragraph 7.12)

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: SC032838

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider: Appletree Treatment Centre Limited

Registered provider address: Meathop Park, Meathop, Grange-over-Sands,
Cumbria LA11 6RF

Responsible individual: Rowan Knapton

Registered manager: Amanda Fishwick

Inspectors

Nicola Clements, Social Care Inspector

Natalie Bennett, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
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