

1240573

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is part of a large organisation. The home provides care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2020.

Inspection dates: 21 and 22 March 2023

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: 15 June 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/06/2021	Full	Good
23/07/2019	Full	Good
23/10/2018	Full	Good
30/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Four children live at the home. The home is nicely decorated and has a homely feel to it. The children have personalised their bedrooms, giving them a sense of belonging.

Children were spoken to as part of the inspection. All said that they like living in the home and one said that there is a 'good vibe' in the home.

Children receive good care. They have very detailed and individualised care plans which describe their complex needs. The plans show the overall aims and objectives for the children and help to track the impact the care is having on their outcomes.

Progress for children in education is mixed. Two children are in full-time education and are making progress. One child's attendance has recently reduced; however, the manager is being proactive and working with education professionals to try to increase this. One child who has recently moved into the home does not have an identified school. Although the manager is working towards finding an education provision for the child, they have missed several weeks of education.

Children's health needs are well understood and met by staff. Children are supported with both their physical and emotional health needs. The home's therapist provides support to the children and the staff team.

Children are being prepared well for independence. Staff are teaching them skills in budgeting, cleaning and cooking. This will ensure that they are ready for the next stage in their lives.

Children's experiences of moving into and out of the home are positive. One child has moved on to live independently and two children returned home to live with their families.

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

Children said they feel safe. Direct work is carried out with the children so they can learn to develop the skills needed to keep themselves safe.

Risk assessments are detailed and give staff clear strategies to manage the children's individualised risks. However, risk assessments have not always been updated after incidents, which means staff may not have all the up-to-date information about how to keep children safe.

Children rarely go missing from home. When they do, staff follow clear protocols and all the relevant information is shared with other agencies to try to get children home quickly.

Children have clear and consistent boundaries. Staff support children well by using de-escalation strategies. This means physical intervention is rarely used and only as a last resort. Staff and children are given the opportunity to reflect and debrief after an incident.

Children live in a home that is physically safe. Staff complete regular checks in line with health and safety policies, including regular fire drills.

Managers recruit new staff safely. These safe recruitment procedures make sure that children are protected by preventing unsuitable adults from working in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The staff team has a child-focused ethos and is led by an experienced and passionate manager. The manager is committed to the children and is well respected by staff. He is available for the children and this has helped him to build positive relationships with them. Staff said that they feel well supported and that the manager is approachable.

There is a stable staff team in place. This provides continuity of care for the children and helps them build positive and long-lasting relationships. Children have good relationships with staff and the manager. The inspector observed these positive relationships during the inspection.

Staff are experienced and suitably qualified or currently completing suitable qualifications. Staff receive training to ensure that they can meet the needs of the children in their care.

Staff have regular supervision, which is purposeful and reflective. Regular team meetings give staff the opportunity to discuss any issues in the home and ensure that everyone is kept up to date with the children's progress and any changes to children's plans.

The manager and staff team have created good relationships with external professionals. The inspector gained positive feedback from two social workers. The manager and staff team work hard with children's families. One child's mother said, 'It feels like [child's name] has gained an extra family.'

Children's case records do not include all the information from the local authority that staff should have about each child, to ensure that they are providing care in line with local authority plans.

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, the 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 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>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))</p> <p>This specifically refers to ensuring that risk assessments include all known risks.</p>	23 April 2023
<p>The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which—</p> <p>include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child. (Regulation 36 (1)(a))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should ensure that local authority care plans are requested from the local authority.</p>	23 April 2023

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: 1240573

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: David Crow

Registered manager: Richard Taylor

Inspector

Rachael Crook, 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 2023