

1241970

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care for up to two children who may experience social and emotional difficulties. The home is privately owned.

The registered manager post is vacant.

Inspection dates: 21 and 22 March 2023

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: 1 March 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/03/2022	Full	Good
18/12/2018	Full	Outstanding
24/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
25/07/2017	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is welcoming and comfortable. It is personalised to meet the needs of the children. Photos of the children and their artwork are displayed in the home.

Children are enabled to build trusted and secure relationships with staff. Staff speak warmly and positively about the children and invest time in getting to know them.

Staff support children to attend school and do well in their education. Staff actively support the children to explore post-16 options. One teacher said that the staff are 'receptive and responsive', and regularly share updates about the child's day. This means that the child can see trusted adults working together to support them to achieve their educational outcomes.

Staff support children to maintain good physical health. Children are encouraged to eat healthily and attend all their health appointments.

Children are listened to. They are involved in decisions about their day-to-day care and their views are acted on when appropriate. Individual sessions are undertaken with children on important issues such as relationships, school, sexual health and keeping themselves safe. Staff also support children to develop their knowledge and understanding of current affairs and cultural activities.

The staff actively promote children's family time. The staff maintain regular communication with children's family members, and family are welcome to visit the home. Children are supported to have overnight stays with their family and spend time with their friends. This helps children continue to see those who are important to them and maintain a positive sense of identity.

Staff support the children to carry out daily tasks independently in line with their individual needs, including cooking, budgeting and shopping. One child is now attending health appointments independently. This is helping the children to prepare for adult life.

Children are supported to engage in activities such as skating, bowling and going to the zoo. The staff arrange meals out and theme events in the home. One child went on holiday in the summer, and they also helped prepare a charity garden party. This is helping the children develop their social skills and resilience.

The children have memory books of their time in the home. This supports the children's ability to reflect on their experiences and progress.

The home's therapist visits regularly and works with the children individually. The therapist supports the staff in delivering therapeutic care to the children. However,

the children's risk assessments and behaviour support plans do not always include the individual therapeutic approaches identified by the therapist.

When children come to live at the home, matching is carefully considered. However, a robust transition plan is not always in place to support the child's move into the home.

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

Children currently living in the home said that they feel safe. They can talk to staff about any worries they have.

Assessments of risk and behaviour management plans are detailed and understood by staff. This ensures that staff take the right action when children go missing from the home. For example, staff make every effort to contact and locate the child, working closely with the police and the placing authority. However, an independent return home interview does not always take place in a timely way when a child returns home after having been missing.

Restraints are proportionate and used as a last resort. The recordings of restraining incidents are detailed and show a range of de-escalation strategies used in attempts to avoid the restraints. Staff and children receive a debrief after an incident.

The managers and staff know what to do in response to any allegations. Referrals made are timely, and actions are put in place to minimise the risk to children to allow the necessary enquiries to be made. Proper investigations are carried out to address all issues of concern and relevant agencies are updated with the outcome.

Searches of bedrooms are carried out sensitively by staff. All searches are recorded appropriately. The reasons for the searches are clear and there is management oversight.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is new to the home. He is suitably qualified and intends to apply to Ofsted for registration.

The home is adequately staffed for the children currently living in the home. There are experienced lead practitioners in place who know the children well and are a positive role model for staff and children.

Effective monitoring and review systems are in place. The manager completes monthly audits to ensure that he has regular oversight of all records. He understands what is working well and the areas for improvement. This means that the manager and staff can identify and act on shortfalls to improve the quality of care that the children receive.

Staff describe the manager as being supportive and said that they enjoy working in the home. Team meetings take place regularly, and these allow for feedback and discussion. Staff have regular supervision; however, the records do not always evidence that staff have had an opportunity to reflect on their practice. This limits the manager's understanding of staff strengths and areas for development.

Staff receive training to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and meet the children's individual needs. For example, staff have completed training in supporting children who have experienced grief and loss, and in protecting children from child sexual exploitation and self-harm. This helps staff have a good knowledge and skill base to safeguard children.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff have an opportunity to reflect on their practice during individual supervision sessions. This should be recorded, as appropriate, on the staff supervision record. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 39, paragraph 8.15)
- The registered person should ensure that an independent return home interview takes place within 72 hours of a child returning home when they have been missing. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)
- The registered person should ensure that the individual therapeutic approaches identified by the therapist for each child are incorporated into their assessments and plans. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.15)
- The registered person should ensure that there is a robust transition plan in place for children moving into the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.5)

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: 1241970

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Registered provider address: 49 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool FY3 9DG

Responsible individual: Jacqueline Titterington

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Dawn Walker, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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Manchester
M1 2WD

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