

1253975

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home offers care for up to two children who may have social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The home has a registered manager who is suitably qualified.

Inspection dates: 30 and 31 August 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: 18 October 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/10/2022	Full	requires improvement to be good
09/06/2021	Full	good
04/07/2019	Full	outstanding
17/07/2018	Full	good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

One child was living in the home at the time of this inspection. The staff know the child well. Staff use the child's preferred methods of communication. As a result, the child is able to contribute to decisions made about all aspects of their care. The child's views are sought regularly and acted on by the manager.

The staff nurture relationships between the child and their family. This includes facilitating the child's time with their family, sending updates, and including family in children's celebrations. For example, the manager advocated for the child's mother to attend a school graduation event.

Staff understand the individual health needs of the child well. Staff support the child to attend health appointments and work with health professionals to ensure that the child's individual needs are met.

Staff have high aspirations for the child and support them with their education. The child attends education and completes learning activities at home. One school key worker stated that she and the staff share monthly targets for the child to provide consistency.

Staff encourage the child to take part in individualised and group activities. As a result, the child has formed friendships with other children and is enabled to pursue interests and hobbies. Staff support the child to learn life skills. This includes supporting the child to become more independent and to take manageable risks in line with their development, such as using public transport and accessing local activities.

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

Staff understand the child well. Staff ensure that the child's emotional needs are met. For example, the child is supported to identify his own emotions and develop strategies to manage difficult feelings. Boundaries for the child are clear and behaviour is managed well. Staff ensure that the child has many fun activities to keep them engaged, and that positive behaviour is rewarded.

Staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. Individualised plans are regularly updated to reflect any changes for the child. The child's plans capture all known risks and provide staff with clarity in respect of actions that they need to take to keep the child safe. The known risks for the child have reduced as a result of the care provided by staff.

The use of physical intervention is as a last resort to ensure the child's safety. The manager ensures that incident records are detailed, and that debriefs take place

with the child and staff after any incident. This ensures that practice in this area remains safe and appropriate.

The home environment is physically safe and secure. The home is spacious, and the child benefits from a welcoming and cosy living environment. In some communal areas within the home, there are cracks in the plaster. The manager has taken action to ensure that this is repaired.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is visible and leads by example. The manager has a good understanding of the child's needs and the impact of the care provided on the child's outcomes. The manager has effective monitoring systems in place and takes decisive action to address shortfalls in practice.

The manager has built effective working relationships with other professionals. The manager has used appropriate escalation when the child's needs have not been met. For example, the manager has escalated concerns to the local authority because of an avoidable delay in progressing with a change in school. As a result, the matter has been acted on by the child's advocate and independent reviewing officer.

The manager has created a culture of high expectations and ambition. Staff say that they enjoy working in the home and feel that the manager supports them. Staff morale is exceptionally high. The manager closely monitors the care that staff provide and delivers constructive challenge to inform staff development.

Staff access regular supervisions and team meetings. This supports staff to reflect on the child's evolving needs and contribute to decisions about changes in practice. Staff access a range of training, which gives them the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the child. The manager implements activities with staff, such as team quizzes, to support them to transfer learning into the care they provide for the child.

There are no shortfalls identified following this inspection and no breaches in regulation. As a result, there are no requirements or recommendations made.

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: 1253975

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Ltd

Registered provider address: Ground Floor, Seneca House, Links Point, Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool FY4 2FF

Responsible individual: Lee Ridgley

Registered manager: Sarah Lethbridge

Inspector

Sally Griffiths, Social Care Inspector

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