

1240573

Sandcastle Care Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home registered with Ofsted in December 2016 and is operated by a private organisation. It provides care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this visit, there was no registered manager in post, and three children were living at the home.

Inspection date: 6 February 2024

This monitoring visit

This home was judged to be inadequate at the last full inspection on 12 and 13 December 2023. Significant shortfalls were identified in several areas.

This visit was carried out to consider the provider's progress in meeting the requirements and recommendations raised at the full inspection.

No children have moved into the home since the full inspection. The same three children have remained living in the home. Good progress has been made to address the shortfalls identified at the full inspection.

Improvements have been made with children's education. Two children, who are not accessing full-time education, now have an education plan in place and enjoy learning independence skills and taking part in educational activities with the staff at the home and in the community.

Sufficient measures are in place to protect children and mitigate risk. Individual risk assessments and positive behaviour support plans are in place for children, demonstrating the prevention and intervention strategies to be implemented by staff.

Staff take responsive action to manage risk. They educate children about risk-taking behaviours through key-work sessions and regularly update risk assessments and behaviour support plans.

On one occasion, a consequence has been given to a child. Although the consequence was proportionate, the manager failed to speak to the member of staff who imposed the consequence in a timely manner. This is a missed opportunity for reflection and consideration of the effectiveness of the measure.

Staff have now received training in substance misuse, safeguarding and child protection. They have also completed adequate fire safety and fire marshal training. This means that staff can now identify and manage fire risks and meet the children's needs.

New systems for monitoring and reviewing the service have been implemented. This has had a positive impact on the running of the home and supports the manager to address any shortfalls in a timely manner.

The home is in the completion stages of being redecorated and furnished to make it a pleasant place for children to live. The home has undergone extensive work to address the risks identified in the fire risk assessment. The home is safe and free of hazards. The provider has made appropriate improvements to provide good-quality care to children.

An interim deputy manager has been appointed. The manager has ensured that safer recruitment checks have been carried out. However, the manager has not ensured that the deputy manager has received an induction to the home. Permanent members of staff cover the rota to provide consistency for the children living in the home.

Staff have not had their fitness to perform their duties annually appraised. This is a missed opportunity for the manager to assure himself that the staff remain skilled and knowledgeable to meet the needs of the children and for the staff members to reflect on their practice.

Following the visit, a case review was held. During the visit, 12 requirements raised at the previous inspection were considered, along with two recommendations. Of the 12 requirements, 11 were considered to be met, along with both recommendations. One requirement is restated, and one recommendation has been raised. These will be considered at the next full inspection

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/12/2023	Full	Inadequate
21/03/2023	Full	Good
15/06/2021	Full	Good
23/07/2019	Full	Good

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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>The registered person must—</p> <p>ensure that each employee completes an appropriate induction.</p> <p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (1)(a) (4)(c))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that new staff have an induction to the home and all staff have their fitness to perform their duties appraised annually.</p> <p>This requirement is restated.</p>	10 March 2024

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that any consequences used to address poor behaviour are restorative in nature, to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour on themselves, other children, the staff caring for them and the wider community. The consequence should be discussed with the user of the measure within 48 hours of the consequence being given. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.38)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1240573

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sandcastle Care Limited

Registered provider address: The Forge, Church Street West, Woking, Surrey
GU21 6HT

Responsible individual: Steven Lambert

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Julie Elder, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
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M1 2WD

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