

1241261

Registered provider: The Place Young Peoples Company Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care for up to two children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

There is no registered manager.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out of the home and one child has moved in. At the point of inspection, there was one child living at the home.

Inspection dates: 27 and 28 February 2024

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: 4 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/01/2023	Full	Good
07/03/2022	Full	Good
04/02/2020	Full	Good
24/10/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have meaningful relationships with staff. Staff spend time with children and know them well. Children experience a family environment, where they cook and share meals together. Activities such as ice-skating and badminton are also enjoyed together. As a result, children settle and have a sense of belonging.

Children do well in education. Staff have supported one child to return to school after a long period of home schooling. Staff advocate strongly for children, professionally challenging the wider system when necessary.

Children's health needs are met well by staff. Staff are proactive in seeking assessments and support from relevant professionals, such as occupational therapists, psychologists and diabetes nurses. This individualised care promotes children's health and overall well-being.

Staff support children to spend time with people who are important to them. One child is helped to maintain relationships with family members who live far from the home. This helps to minimise the child's sense of loss and aids their sense of self and identity. Staff listen to and act on the child's wishes and feelings around seeing family. This helps to ensure that time spent with family is a positive experience for the child.

Children's care plans are well considered. Children receive bespoke care and support. Training for staff is tailored to meet children's specific needs, such as that related to diabetes and pathological defiance avoidance. However, staff do not always record information about children in a non-stigmatising way. This is an area for development.

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

Staff know the risks that children can be exposed to. Each risk is assessed and regularly reviewed. Decisions about risk are made in collaboration with other agencies, such as school, health professionals and social care. There is a balanced approach to risk management, which helps to keep children safe while allowing them to take age-appropriate risks. For one child, this means they are no longer subject to a deprivation of liberty order.

Children know how to make a complaint. Children's concerns are taken seriously and investigated promptly. Children receive a written response from the manager. Staff also promote the use of advocacy services. For one child, an advocate represents their wishes and feelings at care review meetings. This practice helps children to feel heard and valued, and ensures they have a say in their day-to-day care.

Staff are well trained and supported in their role. Therapeutic support is provided to staff and children by the home's psychotherapist. Staff receive trauma-informed training. This develops staff's responses to children's behaviours. For one child, instances of behaviours that staff found difficult to manage have significantly reduced.

Allegations against staff are duly managed. Relevant agencies are promptly consulted, such as Ofsted and the local authority designated officer. Appropriate safeguards are put in place while investigations are carried out. Any shortfalls identified in staff's practice or training are addressed effectively.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The acting manager is passionate about achieving the best outcomes for children. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge, which is being used to upskill staff. She is a strong role model, and staff feel confident under her leadership. Team morale is good, and staff enjoy working at the home.

The acting manager has good oversight of the service. Effective monitoring and quality assurance systems are in place and ensure that she knows what is happening in the home daily. Comprehensive evaluations of incidents are completed by the acting manager. Learning from these informs staff's training and changes to policy and practice. This helps the team to develop and maintain good standards of care.

The acting manager and staff work in collaboration with other professionals, such as teachers and social workers. Regular network meetings are held with professionals to discuss a child's needs and progress. This ensures effective and coordinated care planning.

Staff are safely recruited. All necessary checks and processes are followed. During the probationary period, staff are required to complete a reflective workbook to evidence their learning. This helps the acting manager to identify if staff are competent in their role and highlights areas of shortfall.

Staff do not receive regular supervision. While progress is being made, this continues to be an area for development.

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 registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1.</p> <p>Subject to paragraph (6), the registered person must ensure that the home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its statement of purpose. (Regulation 16 (1) (5))</p> <p>This specifically refers to the supervision of staff taking place in line with the home's policy of monthly supervision and supervision every two weeks during induction.</p> <p>This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.</p>	30 April 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 1241261

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Place Young Peoples Company Limited

Registered provider address: 2 Lymevale Court, Lyme Drive, Parklands, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 6NW

Responsible individual: James Binyon

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Emma Dacres, Social Care Inspector

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