

1185828

Registered provider: Next Stage 4Life LTD

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. The home provides care for up to two children with emotional and social difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2022.

Inspection dates: 19 and 20 March 2024

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: 7 March 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/03/2023	Full	Good
01/03/2022	Full	Good
13/11/2019	Full	Outstanding
23/07/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children say that they enjoy living in this home. Staff work hard to build positive relationships with children. As a result, children want to spend time with the staff. Staff take children's views seriously and act on them. This means that children contribute to decisions made about their care and take pride in their home.

The registered manager ensures that thoughtful care planning takes place before children come to live at the home. Children moving into the home are welcomed sensitively. On one occasion, the registered manager purchased a set of books by the child's favourite author for their introduction visit to the home. A social worker said, 'It made me feel that [name of manager] had listened to who the child was, not just what the risks were.'

Staff have an excellent understanding of children's health needs. They support children to attend all health appointments. The registered manager works closely with other health professionals to support children's physical and emotional well-being. This ensures that children's health needs are met.

Staff have high aspirations for children. Staff support children to access education in line with their individual plans. Children who do not access full-time school benefit from educational activities that support them to regain their confidence in learning. One child, who had said that they would not complete any exams, completed all their exams.

Staff support children to spend time with people who are important to them. Staff help children to rebuild relationships with their families. This enables children to maintain a sense of belonging and develop their support networks for the future.

Children access a range of activities. This helps children to develop their confidence and social skills. Staff encourage children to contribute to local charities. This develops children's empathy and sense of responsibility within the local community. Staff capture children's experiences in memory books. These are a reminder for the children of their positive memories while living in this home.

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

Staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. They have created a culture in which there is a conscientious approach to keeping children safe.

Children's known risks reduce because of the care that they receive from the staff. Children's plans identify their known risks and provide staff with clear steps to take to keep children safe. Staff talk to children after every incident, which teaches

children to manage difficult feelings safely. As a result, children's unsafe behaviours reduce.

Boundaries for children are clear, and children are rewarded for positive behaviour. Staff undertake direct work with children to enable children to understand their own needs and steps that they can take to keep themselves safe. Children are enabled to take risks in line with their individual abilities. This includes supporting children to develop their independence, including independent travel and interview skills. This helps children to develop their confidence and life skills for the future.

Children who go missing from home experience well-coordinated responses from staff. When children return home, they are offered the opportunity to speak to an independent person. Staff evaluate and reflect on incidents to help them understand the reasons why children go missing.

Physical intervention is used as a last resort to keep children safe. The registered manager gives children and staff the opportunity to share their views after an incident. This ensures that practice in this area remains safe and appropriate.

The home environment is well maintained and decorated to a high standard. Health and safety checks are routinely completed. This means that the children live in a safe environment.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is supported by a highly motivated assistant manager. They complement each other and have created an environment that is child-focused.

Staff enjoy working in this home and feel supported by managers. Staff attend regular supervision and team meetings. This enables them to contribute to decisions about changes in practice and understand children's evolving needs. Managers identify staff development needs and ensure that they are met.

Managers identify shortfalls in staff practice and take decisive action to address them. This helps staff to understand what is expected of them and ensures that children receive consistent care. The registered manager takes immediate action to respond to allegations made about staff, and as a result, children are safeguarded. A local authority designated officer said, 'They [the registered manager and responsible individual] should be commended for their diligence.'

The registered manager nurtures positive working relationships with external professionals. As a result, children's needs are met. External professionals said staff communicate well with them and advocate for the children. Managers contribute to multi-agency planning meetings, which inform decisions made about children's care.

The registered manager has a good understanding of the quality of care that children receive. He continually looks at ways of developing the care provided to children. The registered manager has introduced plans that are written from the

child's perspective. Children are encouraged to read and contribute to their own plans. This enables them to understand decisions made about their own care.

There are no shortfalls identified and no breaches of regulations. Consequently, 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: 1185828

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Next Stage 4Life LTD

Registered provider address: Regency House, 45-53 Chorley New Road, Bolton BL1 4QR

Responsible individual: Richard Guy

Registered manager: Andrew Funnell

Inspector

Sally Griffiths, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
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M1 2WD

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