

1238043

Registered provider: Nurture Childcare Services Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. It is registered to care for up to three children who may experience social or emotional difficulties.

There were three children living here at the time of this inspection. The inspector spoke with all three children.

The manager has been in post since May 2023 and registered with Ofsted in February 2024.

Inspection date: 26 March 2024

Date of last inspection: 23 May 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children live in a large home that has plenty of space for them to play and relax. Siblings have stayed together and experience a warm, family-like environment. One child said about staff, 'they love us like we are their own'.

Children say that they feel safe. Staff have developed trusting relationships with children and listen to their worries. Staff are nurturing when children are in crisis. This helps children to cope with difficult emotions.

The manager is suitably experienced and qualified for the role. Staff say that with support from the manager, the staff team is now stable. One child said, 'When staff come, they stay instead of coming and going all the time, it has really improved'.

Children are encouraged to try different activities. As children get older, staff teach them how to do more things for themselves. This helps children prepare to live more independently.

Staff support children with their education and help children to prepare for the working world. When needed, staff and managers advocate for children and challenge poor decision making from other professionals.

Staff provide children with appropriate consequences and rewards. However, on one occasion, a child has had no clear end point to a consequence. This has been in part due to decisions made by other professionals but has had an impact on the child's ability to contact and spend time with friends. A recommendation has been made to address this shortfall.

When children go missing, staff respond thoroughly and effectively to bring children home safely. This helps children to know that the staff team care about them. However, the paperwork that provides staff with guidance for missing incidents needs strengthening. A recommendation has been made to address this to ensure it does not cause any delays in safeguarding children.

Staff provide appropriate care and support when children have harmed themselves. However, the recording of these incidents is not always thorough and related records have not always been completed. A recommendation has been made to address this.

Staff talk to children about things that children may struggle with. Staff revisit important topics to help children understand how to keep themselves safe. This equips children with the understanding they need to stay safe online and in the community.

Staff receive support and say that supervision and team meetings provide them with an opportunity to reflect on their practice. Managers ensure that staff have the training they need to meet the differing needs of children. Staff are provided with opportunities to develop their skills and progress in their careers.

Managers use internal and external monitoring systems to ensure that children's care is considered from different perspectives. This oversight helps to keep children safe.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/01/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/10/2022	Full	Inadequate
11/01/2022	Full	Good

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

- The registered person should ensure that expectations of staff are clear should a child go missing from home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.28)
- Consequences for children must be clear and time limited. Any consequence imposed should not impact on a child's ability to spend time with friends, unless there is a specific risk around a particular associate. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.38)
- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1238043

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Nurture Childcare Services Limited

Registered provider address: Seighford Hall, Clanford Road, Seighford, Stafford ST18 9NL

Responsible individual: Dale Berry

Registered manager: Charlene Bentley

Inspector

Aislinn Cooper, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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