

SC047894

Registered provider: Care Focus Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to four children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2023. She was not present for the inspection. Another manager has applied to register; she was present during the inspection.

There is a registered school on site. The inspector only inspected the social care provision.

This inspection was brought forward in order to address specific concerns received by Ofsted.

Inspection date: 18 December 2024

Date of last inspection: 18 and 19 September 2024

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

The assurance inspection was brought forward to address specific concerns received by Ofsted.

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

Since the last inspection, one child has moved in. Two children spoke with the inspector. The children said that it has been better living at the home since the last inspection. Children said that they would talk to staff if they were worried about something. Children said that they are proud of their achievements and spoke warmly about their relationships with staff.

Children are making good progress from their starting points. All the children have experienced significant gaps in their formal education. Since living at the home, all children have gradually increased their attendance at the on-site school.

When children make complaints, staff record this respectfully and managers follow this up with the relevant people and agencies. Managers demonstrate curiosity about children's experiences. They take action to ensure that children are safe while they complete necessary investigations. Managerial oversight and responses to concerns raised by children have improved.

Children's peer relationships in the home have been turbulent when new children have arrived. This has led to some significant incidents and physical interventions. Staff have acted proportionately to protect children and have demonstrated compassion, resilience and consistency in their approach. Ultimately, incidents have reduced in seriousness and frequency, and children have settled.

Managers and staff have planned new and shared experiences with the children. They have been on group trips to seaside resorts, out to restaurants and to the theatre. This has helped them to build positive peer relationships and to develop social skills.

Staff have received further training in safeguarding, therapeutic approaches, de-escalation and physical intervention since the last inspection. Leaders ensured that staff had appropriate knowledge and training in understanding self-harm and ligature removal before a child with these vulnerabilities arrived.

The manager ensures that there is regular communication with relevant professionals. She has quickly built positive relationships with family members and social workers for the children. Two children have spent more time with family members who are important to them because of the manager's careful and child-led planning.

A new manager has been working in the home since September 2024. She has applied to register with Ofsted. She demonstrates resilience and is committed to improving children and staff's experiences at the home. One staff member said that she is 'a breath of fresh air'. Others said that they feel supported, have regular supervision and feel that she takes their concerns seriously.

There has been an increase in staff absences and staff have worked more often to provide consistency for children. The manager is acutely aware of the impact of a shortage of staff on the team's well-being and the potential for impact on children's experiences. During the inspection, senior leaders demonstrated that they are working through an action plan to address concerns shared by some staff. This includes interim support from agencies, appointing additional waking night staff and reviewing one child's overnight care plan.

The home and outside environment have been improved since the last inspection. The home is now well presented. Overgrowth in the garden has been cut back and children have access to snacks without unnecessary restrictions.

The independent person now visits in person once a month. Some reports include inaccuracies and are missing relevant information, including statements about children's well-being and timing of visits. This does not provide effective external scrutiny.

All the requirements and recommendations from the last inspection have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/09/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
21/11/2023	Full	Good
09/11/2022	Full	Good
02/11/2021	Full	Good

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should actively seek high-quality independent scrutiny of the home and make best use of independent monitoring (including under regulation 44) to ensure continuous improvement. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 55, paragraph 10.24)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC047894

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Care Focus Limited

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor, 168 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 6RA

Responsible individual: Nina Campbell

Registered manager: Gabrielle Pars

Inspector

Natalie Day, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024