

SC461450

Registered provider: Harmony Children's Services

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned and managed children's home. It is registered to provide care for up to three children who may experience emotional and/or social difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

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

The manager has been registered at this home since October 2021.

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 January 2023

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: 1 February 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/02/2022	Full	Good
19/06/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
27/11/2018	Full	Good
21/11/2017	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are making progress because they receive a high standard of nurturing care from staff who know them well. Children respond well to the structure and boundaries that are in place at this home. This approach means that children receive consistent care, which provides them with a sense of stability and security.

Staff are committed to providing the children with positive and trusting relationships. When children have anxieties about relationships, staff help them to build trust in the adults who care for them at a pace that is comfortable for the child. They understand how the relationships that they build with children have an impact on the progress that children make.

Children are making progress in their education from their starting points. This is because staff work collaboratively with schools to ensure that children's emotional needs are understood and they are receiving the right support. This increases the likelihood that children will experience improved outcomes in their future education.

Children enjoy improved health because of the help that they receive from staff to overcome their anxieties about health appointments. For some children, this has meant that they have attended appointments and received the right treatment. Children are helped to access services to support their emotional and mental health.

Staff talk to the children about topics that are specific to children's individual needs. Records show that these discussions are open and honest, and capture the child's wishes and feelings.

Children's day-to-day experiences are positive because staff are committed to providing them with routines and structure to their day. Some children enjoy going out to do activities, such as swimming and playing football, while other children prefer to spend time with their peers. The inspector observed one child laughing and having fun when playing with their toys and games with staff.

Children are helped to spend time with the people who are important in their lives. Staff help children to understand their feelings when relationships become difficult. Children's friends are welcomed into the home when they visit. This gives children a sense of belonging and provides them with the same experiences as their peers.

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

Staff understand the individual vulnerabilities and risks to children, and they are clear about their responsibilities to ensure that children are better protected. Staff are curious about the risks to children, which means they respond immediately when the risks to children change. However, not all identified risks are consistently

recorded in the children's records. This means that staff are not always provided with guidance on the steps they need to follow to mitigate those risks. There is sometimes conflicting information in the children's records. This has the potential to hinder staff decisions about keeping children safe.

One child is at risk of going missing. Staff are clear on the steps that they need to follow if they go missing, including searching for the child and reporting them as missing. Records show that staff are proactive in their response. They search the local area for the child, and, when needed, will challenge others who may hinder their attempts to find the child. They educate children about the risks of going missing and use strategies to engage children in positive activities.

Staff understand how children's experiences have an impact on their behaviour. They are resilient and consistent in their response to incidents of unwanted behaviour involving the children. This predictable response means that children are provided with a sense of safety and security, and the number of incidents has reduced.

When children have been restrained, the action taken by staff has been necessary and proportionate to reduce the risk of harm to the child. Records show that staff and children are not always provided with the opportunity to discuss the restraint. This prevents reflection and learning, which could be used to reduce the likelihood of incidents happening in the future.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced and suitably qualified. She is committed to a vision of providing children with nurturing and consistent care that considers individual childhood experiences and trauma. She is a positive role model to staff, which means that staff are motivated to share the ethos and vision for the home.

A child moved in to this home in a planned and supportive way, which has helped them to feel increasingly safe and secure. The manager considered the risks for the child and the impact on the children who were already living at the home. The children are happy and like living with each other.

Staff receive regular supervision, which helps them to reflect on practice. Team meetings take place regularly, providing staff with the opportunity to discuss changes to the children's plans and changing risks for individual children. Staff said that they feel supported and that their learning and development are a priority. This supportive environment means that staff morale is good. Staff work as a team to provide children with a high standard of care.

This home is sufficiently staffed to provide the children with consistent care. The manager ensures that staff receive the relevant training to meet the needs of the children who are living at the home. Where there has been a change to the risks for children, the manager has acted immediately to ensure that staff have access to the necessary training.

The manager and staff have built strong relationships with other professionals who are involved in the children's care. Professionals said that a strength of this home is the positive relationships between staff and the children. One professional said, 'Staff really know the child well. The communication with the home is excellent; this means that we are better equipped to support the child in school.' Strong partnership working means that the children receive the right support and continuity of care.

There are effective audit and monitoring systems in place to track the risks to children, the progress that children are making, and staff development. While some shortfalls have been identified and addressed by the manager, some of the information in written documents relating to children's risk assessments and restraint records has not been scrutinised.

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, 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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff—</p> <p>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child’s relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that all identified risks to children are assessed and recorded in written documents. Ensure that written documents provide clear steps for staff to follow, and conflicting information is not recorded across documents.</p>	23 February 2023
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p> <p>has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and</p> <p>within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(ii)(c)(iv))</p>	23 February 2023

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: SC461450

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Harmony Children's Services

Registered provider address: 3 Park Square, Leeds LS1 2NE

Responsible individual: Mark Raw

Registered manager: Yolanda McInnes

Inspector

Rachel Webster, Social Care Inspector

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