

# 2597567

Registered provider: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The home registered in July 2020 and is owned by a local authority. It provides care for up to four children who experience social and/or emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in March 2022. She is experienced and is currently completing a leadership and management qualification.

There were three children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

### Inspection dates: 30 and 31 May 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:** 18 October 2022

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/10/2022	Full	Good
25/05/2021	Full	Good

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Children are making progress from their starting points because they respond to the consistent and nurturing care provided by staff who know them well. Staff understand the importance of building secure and trusting relationships with the children. This provides children with a sense of stability and security.

Children have improved health outcomes because of the support that they receive from staff. Some children have been helped to overcome their anxieties about attending health appointments. This has enabled them to access the right support and treatment.

Staff are committed to helping children with their emotional and mental health. Staff talk to children about their feelings. This helps children to understand their emotions and experiences. This positive approach helps children to find better coping strategies, and for some children, it has led to a reduction in risk, including substance misuse and other behaviours.

Most children are making progress in their education. One child has improved attendance and increased the number of hours they attend school, and another child has achieved some formal qualifications. Staff understand the barriers to education and advocate for children to ensure that they are receiving the right support.

Children are helped to spend time with the people who are important in their lives. This promotes identity and family relationships. A family member of one child said, '[Name of child] has been going through a difficult time. The staff never give up.'

Children enjoy doing activities with staff, and some enjoy spending time with their friends. They like to go out for walks in the local area and on day trips to the coast. Staff support children to do activities with their friends.

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

When children's peer relationships have been challenging, staff have provided individualised activities and supervision to allow the conflict period to settle. This is followed up with key work to help children understand the others' perspective and feelings.

When children go missing, staff understand their responsibilities and are clear on the steps to follow. They search for children and report them missing to the police if they are not located. Children can talk to an independent person when they return home.

Holds and restraints on children are rarely needed. When it has been used, it has been necessary and proportionate. Children and staff can talk about the incident to reflect and learn new strategies. The staff do not apply consequences in response to children's behaviour. Staff talk to the children, which helps them reflect and learn from the incident.

Staff have a good understanding of the children's individual risks and vulnerabilities. When children are involved in serious incidents, staff respond sensitively to children and use a restorative approach. Staff use their relationships with children to manage unwanted behaviours positively and have taken children away to help manage the dynamics in the home. However, on one occasion, staff did not act promptly in response to a situation of concern with a child, and this was not reflected promptly in their risk assessment. Following on from the incident, staff did significant key work with the child to help them understand the risks involved. Debriefs took place with staff and the child.

Most risk assessments are well written and clear, but strategies to manage one child's behaviour have not been specified clearly. They identify the risks to children and provide staff with clear guidance.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The committed manager supports the staff to work consistently as a team to provide nurturing and unconditional care to the children. She is attuned to the children's emotional needs, and this is disseminated through the staff team. She provides support and positive role modelling to staff, which helps to equip them with the skills to provide a high standard of care to children.

Staff receive regular supervision and feel supported. Staff meetings take place regularly and include discussions about risks to children and the progress that they are making.

There is evidence of strong partnership working at this home. The manager and staff work collaboratively with other professionals involved in the care of the children. This ensures that the children receive the right support and that the care they receive is consistent.

The systems in place to review and monitor the quality of care that children receive are effective. The manager has improved the systems for storing children's records and tracking information about incidents. This enables the manager to monitor the changing risks to children and the progress children are making in line with their plans.

The home is sufficiently staffed. This supports children to receive consistent care from a team that is suitably trained to meet their needs. However, at the time of the inspection, one child was absent from the home for a few days, participating in activities. He was being cared for by a team of agency staff that he did not know.

## 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 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—</p> <p>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; and</p> <p>manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iv))</p> <p>In particular, the risk assessment should be updated to include details of the risks and clear guidance and strategies for staff to follow. This guidance should be shared with all staff working with the child, including those who are employed through an agency.</p>	<p>25 July 2023</p>

### Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that no more than half the staff on duty at any one time, during the day or night, at the home should be from an external agency. This relates to when children are cared for at a location away from the home. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 54, paragraph 10.17)

## **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:** 2597567

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

**Registered provider address:** Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

**Responsible individual:** Simon Breeds

**Registered manager:** Rebecca Briggs

## Inspector

Rachel Webster, Social Care Inspector

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