

1183911

Registered provider: Young Foundations Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned. It offers care for up to 12 children with learning disabilities.

At the time of this inspection, eight children were living in the home. Seven children were present during the inspection and the inspectors spent time with them all.

The manager registered with Ofsted in June 2024.

Inspection date: 10 July 2024

Date of last inspection: 14 May 2024

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

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

The inspectors have 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 identified the following serious and widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection:

- There are significant shortfalls in the safety and protection of children, and the children's welfare is not being promoted.
- Leaders and managers have failed to make effective arrangements to safeguard children.

The purpose of this inspection was to review the provider's practice in response to a serious incident that had been notified to Ofsted.

Children are not offered consistency of care as staff have not always responded to their needs. Incidents have escalated when children have felt neglected. One child sustained a significant injury during an incident, and this behavioural response was a result of the child feeling 'angry' because of insufficient staffing.

Some children have limited verbal communication, and one child has not routinely had access to their communication aids. This means that the child has not had the opportunity to share their views and feelings.

Leaders and managers have not ensured that suitably trained staff are readily available to administer 'when required' medication to children. On one occasion, this meant a child was left in pain. The manager has amended the staff rota to address this shortfall. However, staff do not have clear procedural guidance about the administration of the children's 'when required' medication, and records identify that one child's protocol would allow staff to administer a higher than prescribed dosage.

Staff have not supported children in line with their individual risk assessments and support plans. Staff responses have not been effective in helping children who are in crisis and at risk of harming themselves. One child was redirected into a bathroom during an emotionally difficult time. This decision was not safe for the child at that time, and they suffered an injury. The staff and children do not always have the opportunity to discuss how the restraint has affected them, especially when injuries have occurred.

Staff have used physical intervention techniques that they are not trained to use. The management oversight of physical intervention is insufficient to ensure that practice is safe and that the views of the children and staff are heard and acted on. The inspectors found that a child had reported to have been injured during a physical intervention and there was insufficient evidence of the manager's investigation and review of this concern and injury.

A lack of sufficient staffing means that children are not receiving the consistent care that they need. This has the greatest impact when staff are responding to incidents.

Staff have reported that children are unintentionally neglected. Children speak about not feeling cared for and say that they have feelings of 'anger' and 'frustration' when staff leave their roles as they have to form new relationships and receive personal care from unfamiliar staff.

Leaders and managers have failed to identify that staff practice has compromised the welfare and safety of children. The oversight of the recordings of incidents, including physical interventions, is ineffective. The shortfalls in staff practice, including the skills and competency of staff, have not been identified and addressed. This does not offer assurances that children are safeguarded effectively.

As a result of this inspection, Ofsted has issued two compliance notices. The notices will be reviewed in line with Ofsted's enforcement policy.

This was a focused inspection. Therefore, the requirements from the last full inspection have not been reviewed and are restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/05/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/05/2023	Full	Good
21/11/2022	Full	Good
04/05/2021	Full	Good

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered persons 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 persons must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
*The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— 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; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(b)(e))	1 September 2024
*The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and	1 September 2024

promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home’s statement of purpose; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; ensure that the home’s workforce provides continuity of care to each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that: there is clear oversight of significant incidents; staff are able to meet children’s health and emotional well-being needs; children have consistent access to communication aids. In addition, the registered manager must ensure that staff have access to clear medication administration procedures and that there are sufficient skilled staff to administer medication.	
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy (“the behaviour management policy”) which sets out— the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must keep the behaviour management policy under review and, where appropriate, revise it. The registered person must ensure that—	30 August 2024

within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— a description of the measure and its duration; a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; 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”)— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and 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 (1)(b) (2) (3)(a)(iv)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that staff only use holds that are in line with the home’s policies and that actions are taken when children have injuries. In addition, the registered manager must ensure that staff understand the risks associated with any restraint technique used in the home and assess the risk of administering medication during an incident of physical restraint.	
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans;	30 August 2024

help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(v)(b)) This requirement has been restated.	
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(c)(e)) This requirement has been restated.	30 August 2024
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans; seek to develop and maintain effective professional relationships with such persons, bodies or organisations as the registered person considers appropriate having regard to the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation. (Regulation 5 (a)(d)) In particular, ensure that the contact details of professionals are kept up to date on children's records and that any court paperwork is also kept on children's records. This requirement has been restated.	30 August 2024

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that repairs and maintenance works are carried out in a timely manner so that the home remains comfortable and welcoming. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1183911

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider: Young Foundations Limited

Registered provider address: Alexander House, Highfield Park, Llandrynog,
Denbighshire, Wales LL16 4LU

Responsible individual: David Roach

Registered manager: Jodie Sanderson

Inspectors

Gina Lightfoot, Social Care Inspector
Claire Webster, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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