

1229229

Esland North Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and provides long-term care and accommodation for up to two children aged between 9 and 17 who have complex social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has recently registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 17 November 2020

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was carried out to investigate information received by Ofsted which suggested there may be a breach of regulations.

This visit was carried out with a combination of on-site and off-site activity.

This visit has not raised serious concerns about the care and safety of children in this home.

The new registered manager continues to make improvements to the care and safety of children. She has taken steps to investigate incidents and address poor practice. She is a good advocate for the children, securing the involvement of education providers and mental health teams.

The manager has made efforts to reduce the institutionalised feel of the home, building a culture of nurture and warmth exhibited by all staff.

The manager has now established a core team of permanent staff, providing consistency for children. She is aware that children find it hard to keep building relationships with new staff, and therefore is committed to improving rates of staff retention.

Because the registered manager has now taken responsibility for all staff supervision, staff receive better guidance and support. However, the improved consistency and quality of supervision is not yet fully embedded in practice.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) restrictions, staff have continued to expand their knowledge and practical skills through a range of training. Staff have a better understanding of therapeutic practice, trauma and the needs of the individual children. Staff have received training in a range of safeguarding issues, including sexual exploitation, sexual health and criminal exploitation. Some further work around physical intervention is needed to ensure that all staff understand how to act to keep the children safe when witnessing interventions.

Leaders and managers have not fully explored how to manage the risks to children associated with mobile phone use, specifically sexting and grooming. Tailored work has not been completed with children to improve their understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

Children have access to the gardens at the front and rear of the property. There are significant differences in the levels of the garden and its use has not been thoroughly risk assessed to prevent injury to children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/09/2019	Full	Good
16/10/2018	Full	Outstanding
11/10/2016	Full	Outstanding

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
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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; that the premises used for the purpose of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(v)(d)) This specifically relates to helping children understand safe use of mobile phones, staff understanding their roles in restraint, and risk assessing the safety of the garden.	31 December 2020

Recommendations

- The registered person should monitor and review the patterns and trends of turnover of staff. They should be able to understand and where possible, address any negative trends and ensure consistency of staff for children. This should include understanding how to retain a permanent team. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.19)

- The registered person should ensure that supervision and performance management of staff continue to safeguard children and minimise potential risks to them. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1229229

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Esland North Limited

Registered provider address: Suites 1 & 5, Riverside Business Centre, Foundry Lane, Milford, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0RN

Responsible individual: Elisabeth Brownlees

Registered manager: Hannah Taylor

Inspectors

Judith Longden, social care inspector

Mrs Andi Lilley-Tams, social care inspector

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