

1234243

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to three children.

There were two children living at the home at the time of the inspection. Both children contributed to the inspection.

The manager has applied to register with Ofsted. There has been no registered manager since 23 June 2023.

Inspection date: 7 January 2025

Date of last inspection: 25 June 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 inspector did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Several requirements and recommendations were set following the home's last inspection. Progress in addressing the shortfalls is positive. However, two requirements and one recommendation have been restated to allow the provider time to demonstrate that the changes can be embedded into practice. The manager has identified the strengths in the home and the areas that need further improvement and development. There are plans in place to continue to drive improvements forward.

All the staff have received safeguarding training. Safeguarding issues are discussed in team meetings. Staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. Staff know how to report any concerns they may have. When issues do occur, staff know how to respond and keep children safe.

All staff have completed the provider's mandatory training. They have also completed training in safe administration of medication and have had assessments to ensure they are confident and competent in this area. Medication systems and processes are managed well and are effective. There have been no errors since the previous inspection.

There is now effective monitoring of the quality of care in the home, and plans are in place to improve it further. The home is being run in accordance with the home's statement of purpose. While improvements in how the home is run are evident, given the short timescale in which improvements have been made, a period of establishing good practice is required.

Children's wishes and feelings are listened to, and children are able to make choices and decisions about their home. However, children do not have access to an independent advocate. This limits children's opportunities to understand their rights and have support around any concerns they may have.

Children have routines in place that support them to be prepared for the school day. Staff encourage and promote educational activities throughout the day. However, children are not currently attending their education provision. The manager has raised this with external education professionals, but this has not been effective. The manager has not yet been able to improve children's educational attendance. This negatively impacts on children's ability to make progress.

Children live in a large home that has been redecorated. The home environment reflects that children are valued. All rooms are homely and inviting. Staff see themselves as a family around the children in a family home. The environment promotes the well-being of children.

Staff feel well supported by the manager, who is visible in the home and approachable. They work well together, and staff morale is positive. Individual staff supervision and monthly team meetings are taking place and are planned. These meetings provide staff with the opportunity to share concerns and develop practice. Consequently, the manager and team have creative plans to improve the outcomes for children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/06/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/12/2023	Full	Good
14/06/2022	Full	Good
08/11/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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
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 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; 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; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; and feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(a)(c)(d)(f)(g)(i)(h))	16 June 2025

In particular, this relates to the manager ensuring that they have robust oversight of the home, care of children and records. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— develop positive relationships with them; engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care; ensure that each child— is enabled to provide feedback to, and raise issues with, a relevant person about the support and services that the child receives; is given appropriate advocacy support. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(b)(i)(iii))	16 June 2025

In particular, this relates to the manager ensuring that children's views are regularly sought in relation to the quality of care provided for them. It also relates to ensuring that staff actively try and encourage children to come down from their bedrooms in the morning and participate in activities. It also relates to ensuring that children understand the role of and are offered appropriate advocacy support. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; help each child who is above compulsory school age to participate in further education, training or employment and to prepare for future care, education or employment; help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(viii)(ix)(x))	16 June 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1234243

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Registered provider address: Venture House, Prospect Business Park, 12
Prospect Park, Longford Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 0LG

Responsible individual: Alexander Lee

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Thirza Smith, Social Care Inspector

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