

Aim High Fostering Services

M25 Business Centre Ltd, 121 Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey EN9 1JH

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this independent fostering agency

This independent fostering agency registered with Ofsted on 7 October 2016. The current manager was registered with Ofsted on 10 July 2023. At the time of this inspection, the agency had 14 foster carers and 18 children living in foster homes.

The inspector was aware during this visit that an allegation has been made that a serious incident occurred since the last inspection which is under investigation by the appropriate authorities. While Ofsted does not have the power to investigate incidents of this kind, actions taken by the setting in response to the incident were considered alongside other evidence available at the time of the inspection to inform the inspector's judgements.

Inspection date: 27 February 2024

Date of previous inspection: 14 February 2022

This monitoring visit

This visit was undertaken to address specific concerns received by Ofsted.

Leaders and managers are working with the appropriate agencies regarding the concerns that led to this monitoring visit. They are appropriately concerned and have already taken swift action to address the shortfalls identified.

Risk assessments of household members have not been carried out following concerns. Known risks have not been thoroughly assessed and there have not been appropriate plans in place. Furthermore, children's safer care plans are not always effective. They do not take into account children's known behaviours or the impact of changes in the household.

The agency has not ensured that foster carers formally notify the agency when other adults move into the home. This prevents a full review of the fostering household.

Allegations are not always managed appropriately. For example, on one occasion, a child reported a concern to an independent reviewing officer. This information was not shared with the agency until several months later, and it was not treated as an allegation or complaint. Furthermore, this incident had not been reported to the local authority designated officer or to Ofsted. Leaders and managers rectified this during this monitoring visit. However, there has been a significant delay which has potentially prevented the child from receiving support.

The agency does not consistently offer support or provide training to household members. This means that other adults who play a significant role in children's lives do not always have the appropriate training or skills to support them.

Leaders and managers have implemented an immediate action plan to address the shortfalls identified at this monitoring visit. Three requirements have been raised and one recommendation. Recommendations from the previous inspection were not reviewed at this visit and are restated.

What does the independent fostering agency 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 Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the national minimum standards. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
If any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 7 takes place in relation to a fostering agency, the registered person must without delay notify the persons or bodies indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. Any notification made in accordance with this regulation which is given orally must be confirmed in writing. (Regulation 36 (1) (2)) In particular, leaders and managers must ensure that they notify the local authority designated officer and Ofsted of significant events without delay.	29 March 2024
The registered person in respect of an independent fostering agency must ensure that— the welfare of children placed or to be placed with foster parents is safeguarded and promoted at all times. (Regulation 11 (a)) In particular, leaders and managers must ensure that known risks are assessed and that there are appropriate plans in place. This includes appropriately assessing members of the fostering household.	29 March 2024
If a fostering service provider decide to approve X as a foster parent they must— enter into a written agreement with X covering the matters specified in Schedule 5 (the “foster care agreement”). (Regulation 27 (5)(b)) In particular, in line with schedule 5, foster carers must give written notice to the fostering service provider without delay, with full particulars, of any change in the composition of the household.	29 March 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the wishes, feelings and views of children and those significant to them are taken into account in monitoring foster carers and developing the fostering service. Specifically, that children receive a consistent level of visits by the fostering agency social workers. ('Fostering services: national minimum standards', 1.7)
- The registered provider should ensure that suitable arrangements exist for professional supervision of the agency's registered person or manager of a local authority fostering service. Specifically, that both the registered manager and the responsible individual receive consistent supervision. ('Fostering services: national minimum standards', 24.3)
- The registered person should ensure that the fostering service has a clear statement of purpose which is available to, and understood by, foster carers, staff and children and is reflected in any policies, procedures and guidance. Specifically, that all services stated in the statement of purpose are available. ('Fostering services: national minimum standards', 16.1)
- The registered person should ensure there is a system in place to notify, within 24 hours, persons and appropriate authorities of the occurrence of significant events in accordance with regulation 36. The system includes what to do when a notifiable event arises at the weekend. Specifically, ensure that the instigation and outcome of any child protection enquiry involving a child placed with foster parents is notified. ('Fostering services: national minimum standards', 29.1 and schedule 7)
- The registered person should ensure that appropriate training on safer caring is provided for all members of the foster household, including young people of sufficient age and understanding, and ensures that foster carers understand how safer caring principles should be applied in a way which meets the needs of individual children. ('Fostering services: national minimum standards', 20.9)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the independent fostering agency since its last Ofsted inspection.

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

Independent fostering agency details

Unique reference number: 1241499

Registered provider: Aim High Fostering Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Biz Space, 121 Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey,
Essex EN9 1JH

Responsible individual: Tamara Marsh

Registered manager: Grace Provencal-Wise

Inspector

Leanne Grant, Social Care Inspector

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