

1241897

Registered provider: Pathways Care Group Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to five children with social, emotional and/or mental health difficulties. At the time of the visit, four children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2023. The registered manager was absent during this visit.

Inspection date: 4 March 2025

This monitoring visit

On 21 January 2025, Ofsted undertook a monitoring visit to address specific concerns or allegations received by Ofsted. Following this visit, Ofsted served a notice restricting accommodation and a compliance notice regarding the leadership and management of the home. This monitoring visit was undertaken to monitor the steps in the compliance notice and the restriction of accommodation.

The provider has made improvements since the last visit. Consequently, the steps in the compliance notice have been appropriately responded to and are fully met. In addition, the restriction of accommodation has been complied with and has now been lifted.

At the time of the inspection, there were three children living at the home. However, one child is about to move, and another child is in the process of moving. Although these are unplanned moves, the changes in the group have reduced the concerns that led to children being unsafe. The dynamics between the children were not helping children to understand and reduce risk. Leaders and managers have reflected on the previous admissions of two children who came to the home within days. These decisions have been reviewed, and wider reflection has been undertaken to understand the cause of this.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2023. The manager is currently absent and was not present during this visit. There are good interim management arrangements to cover the manager's absence. The deputy manager is currently overseeing the day-to-day management of the home. She understands the shortfalls and recent enforcement action and has worked with the responsible individual to address these shortfalls. This provides assurances that children are safe, and work has been undertaken to prevent any reoccurrence.

Staff practice concerns have led to formal action by line managers. The actions are discussed and followed up by line managers in supervision sessions. Investigations into staff practice concerns are under way. These are being investigated using a measured and thorough approach. Plans are in place to ensure staff will be provided with further support and management oversight to monitor their future practice and decision-making.

The staff have undertaken a range of training that reflects children's needs and helps them to safely support children. Further training has been booked in. The training has been discussed in staff supervision sessions. This confirms staff's understanding and knowledge of children's individual needs and associated risk.

Children's risk management plans have been updated in response to the risks of children having electronic cigarettes. There is a new vaping policy. A decision has been made that following concerns, vaping will not be supported or accepted. The new guidance has been shared with staff in a memo and in a team meeting.

The staff have reviewed their use of consequences. Existing consequences that spread over long periods of time have been reviewed and closed by the deputy manager. The deputy manager has good oversight of this.

When children go missing from the home, the manager reviews the incidents to ensure that staff follow the guidance in children's risk assessments.

There is one requirement and one recommendation that have not been reviewed as part of this visit. They will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/06/2024	Full	Good
03/04/2023	Full	Good
05/05/2022	Full	Good
05/01/2022	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)) In particular: leaders and managers must ensure that all relevant information about children is monitored, assessed and reviewed before they move into the home; and leaders and managers must implement an effective system to understand the combined risks of children living together.	14 March 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the identified plans to revamp and level the garden continue at an appropriate pace. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: 1241897

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Pathways Care Group Limited

Registered provider address: Minton Place, Victoria Street, Windsor SL4 1EG

Responsible individual: Benjamin Harper

Registered manager: Paulina Saczewska

Inspector

Deirdra Keating, Social Care Inspector

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