

1245572

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties. There were two children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2023.

Inspection date: 9 December 2024

Date of last inspection: 21 May 2024

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector evaluated:

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

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

Ofsted did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

There have been improvements in the cleanliness of the children's bedrooms, and staff are actively encouraging and supporting the children to keep these tidy.

Children's wishes and feelings are being captured within records of their discussions with staff as well as in their daily logs. There is evidence of the registered manager providing children with feedback from professionals' meetings, such as their looked after children reviews and from discussions with social workers. However, it is still not clear how staff and the manager have acted on children's requests or how the children's feedback contributes to changes in the care that they receive.

One child is diagnosed with asthma; however, he continues to use vapes. The child's risk management plan states that he should not have free use of these in the home and staff should challenge the child if he is seen with vapes inside the home. However, the child continues to have access to vapes in his bedroom and this is not always challenged by staff, which is likely to have an overall impact on his physical health.

Following an incident in the home, the registered manager identified an area of development for the staff team, namely their understanding of the allegation protocol. Staff did not have a full understanding of this process, which led to the untimely management of an allegation from a child. However, the management team has reflected on this and made efficient changes to ensure that staff are knowledgeable about this process to safeguard and support the children who they care for.

The registered manager has made improvements to challenge and escalate concerns with the local authority. Since the last inspection, the registered manager has provided numerous challenges to other professionals, where required. This has resulted in both children receiving new social workers, one child now has their passport, and one child's previous request regarding family time has been granted.

The registered manager has made improvements relating to her oversight and monitoring of the home. There are appropriate tools in place to audit and oversee the running of the home, which help the registered manager to see areas of good practice and areas that still require improvement.

One member of staff has made progress towards completing the relevant qualification. However, this has still not been completed in line with statutory timescales, which may impact the staff member's knowledge and skills in providing care to the children in the home.

There are still vacancies within the home and agency staff are frequently used. The registered manager is actively recruiting for vacancies and makes attempts to have the same agency workers in the home. However, this is not always possible and has an impact on children's continuity of care.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/05/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
18/04/2023	Full	Good
14/06/2022	Full	Good
21/12/2021	Full	Good

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered 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 children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— 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— 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; and regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care. (Regulation 7 (1)(c) (2)(a)(ii)(iii)(iv))	28 February 2025
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— ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; and	28 February 2025

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; and demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(d)(e)(f)(g)(ii))	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home. (Regulation 32 (1) (4)(a)(b) (5)(a))	28 February 2025
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans; and	28 February 2025

understand and develop skills to promote the child's well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(c) (2)(a)(i)(iv))	
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Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1245572

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: Oliver Scrimshaw

Registered manager: Sharon Mackenzie

Inspector

Ladean Wilson, Social Care Inspector

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