

1250253

Registered provider: Achieving Aspirations Community Interest Company

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a private organisation and provides permanent care for one child and a short-break service for up to three children with physical and/or learning disabilities. The service offers overnight respite stays and assessment breaks.

The registered manager left in October 2021. There is an acting manager in post who is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 16 December 2021

Date of last inspection: 3 June 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has sustained effectiveness.

At the last inspection, six requirements and one recommendation were raised. The provider has addressed all the requirements. The recommendation, regarding the environment, has been raised as a requirement as it has not been suitably addressed since the last inspection. Three further requirements and two recommendations have been raised at this inspection.

Since the last inspection, the registered manager has left and the deputy manager has taken on the role of acting manager. The acting manager has developed a system to ensure that children's care plans and risk assessments are reviewed regularly. Staff and children have benefited from consistency during the management changes and monitoring systems have improved.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the home remained open. The number of children reduced by half to maintain social distancing measures. Children were allocated stays based on priority. Short-break holidays for children were offered during the summer. This meant that children were provided with new experiences and opportunities for socialisation supported by familiar staff members.

Children continue to access short breaks in accordance with their needs. They benefit from a familiar staff team and activities that they know and enjoy. Some of the children require set routine-based care. Staff provide social stories that prompt children about their routines and help them to understand what happens next. Overall, children enjoy their stays and families benefit from a respite break.

Children have access to a large garden area and a familiar environment. However, there are several areas of the house and garden that require maintenance and refurbishment. The children's bedroom doors have scratch marks, thresholds to doors have tape across them to hide wear and carpets and laminate floors are worn and dirty. The garden path and borders are full of weeds and the edge of the hardcourt concrete area is uneven. The children's outdoor kitchen has dirty, stagnant water in the sink. Syringes are soaked in an open container in the main office. These aspects fail to provide a pleasant or healthy environment for children.

One child made an allegation to her parent about two members of staff. This was referred by the social worker to the designated officer. An investigation completed by external agencies concluded that the allegation was unsubstantiated. The manager was not made aware of the incident until December 2021, following contact from police. However, the manager contacted Ofsted in regard to this but

failed to notify. Consequently, Ofsted did not have a current view of safeguarding concerns at the home or how they were managed.

A parent raised concerns about the quality of care for their child during a short break. These concerns were resolved and the parent was happy with the outcome. However, the previous manager failed to record these concerns and therefore these were not shared at the inspection. This does not provide a transparent record of complaints about the home.

Some children have complex health needs. There are children who require specialised gastric feeds. The feeding protocol for one child is confusing and unclear. In the child's file, there are numerous protocols which do not correlate with the administration record. Overall, the guidance is ambiguous and has the potential to lead to errors being made.

The gaps in previous employment for one new member of staff had not been checked. This lack of oversight means that the manager may not be aware of important information about the staff member's suitability.

The quality of children's risk assessments has improved. Risks are clearly recorded and identified regarding each child's vulnerabilities. Risk-reduction measures are clearly recorded. The risk assessments are updated when incidents occur.

Children's care plans are informative and personalised. Their interests, hobbies and preferences are clear. Children's assessment paperwork is comprehensive. This information is used to match groups of children and make detailed plans before a child arrives for their short break. Staff have the information that they need to provide continuity of care to each child.

The acting manager has implemented a detailed staff training programme. Health training has been prioritised. The staff have received professional guidance and training in delegated medical procedures. Staff are signed off as competent in medical protocols. This ensures that children's complex health needs are met by trained and competent staff.

The staff rarely use restraint. When this is necessary, the description of the incident and method used are clearly recorded and there is follow-up work with the child. The acting manager signs off each incident record on the same day. This level of managerial oversight helps to keep children safe and to ensure that behaviour management is proportionate.

The registered manager, before they left the home, wrote a quality of care review report. However, this was not submitted to Ofsted as required.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/06/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/02/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
10/04/2019	Full	Good
11/07/2018	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, 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 the premises used for the purposes 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)(d)) This relates to the upkeep of the garden and maintenance of the house; specifically, the condition of the paintwork, door thresholds, worn laminate flooring, stained carpets and the storage of syringes.	25 February 2022
The registered person must ensure that a record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of any investigation. The registered person must supply to HMCI, at HMCI's request, a statement containing a summary of any complaints made during the preceding twelve months and the action that was taken in response to each complaint. (Regulation 39 (3) (5))	31 December 2021
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there. (Regulation 40 (4)(c))	31 December 2021
The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed. (Regulation 45 (4)(a))	25 February 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that, for children on short breaks, staff maintain each child's ongoing health treatment. This includes the management of medication on arrival and departure from the home and recording and sharing information about when medicine is administered. In particular, ensure that there is a clear protocol for administering gastric feeds. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 36, paragraph 7.20)
- The registered person should ensure good employment practice. They must ensure that recruitment processes safeguard children and minimise potential risks to them. In particular, explore and record gaps in employment. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1250253

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Achieving Aspirations

Registered provider address: Suffolk House, 7 Hydra Orion Court, Addison Way,
Great Blakenham, Ipswich IP6 0LW

Responsible individual: Anna Boulton

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Deirdra Keating, Social Care Inspector

Mandy Start, Social Care Inspector

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