

# 1266838

Registered provider: Active Ark Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

A private provider operates this home. It is registered to provide care for up to three children.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living in the home. All three children were spoken to by the inspector.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 22 September 2023.

**Inspection date: 17 January 2024**

**Date of last inspection:** 20 June 2023

**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.

Inspectors 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

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

Children are happy, safe and making progress. They enjoy positive relationships with each other, the manager and the staff team.

Transition planning for all children is not effective. One child, who lived in the home for a long time, moved on in an unplanned way. A decision was made by the management team, in conjunction with the local authority and police.

All children attend full-time education. Staff support children to travel to and from school. Staff spend time with children after school and help them with their homework. This enables children to reach their full potential.

Staff have been proactive in promoting children's health and emotional well-being. Health needs are understood, and staff support the children to attend routine appointments. The manager has been integral in making a referral for one child to access a specialist service. This will support them to address an emerging health need.

Staff actively promote and encourage the children to speak to and see their family members. This ensures that children remain in contact with the people who are important to them and creates a sense of identity.

The manager and staff have introduced regular meetings with the children. The meetings capture the voice of the children and their views, wishes and feelings. Any agreed actions with the children are responded to in a timely manner.

Children currently living in the home do not go missing from care, nor have the staff had to physically hold a child to keep them safe. Staff de-escalate incidents with the children effectively. This supports the staff to maintain and further develop their relationships with the children. Consequences given to the children are rare. When these are used, the manager evaluates records to ensure that the actions are proportionate.

Staff have attended training to develop their safeguarding knowledge. The training includes fire safety, criminal exploitation, drug and alcohol misuse, self-harm and eating disorders.

The manager has a good knowledge of his staff team and the individual needs of the children. He has introduced a new monitoring system to oversee care practices and developments in the home.

The manager regularly uses feedback from the independent person to improve practice in the home. However, the manager has not sent a copy of the quality of care report to the regulator in a timely manner.

Staff now receive a thorough induction when joining the team and have access to a detailed training programme. Regular staff meetings now take place.

The home has recently undergone some redecoration and new furniture has been purchased. Children have personalised their bedrooms. The home is clean and free of hazards. However, surveillance monitors are in use in the hallways of the home. This impacts on children's liberty and their ability to move freely around their home.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 20/06/2023      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 10/08/2022      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 08/03/2022      | Full            | Good                            |
| 11/12/2019      | Interim         | Improved 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 within the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Due date         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on—</p> <p>research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met. (Regulation 13 (1)(g)(i))</p>                                                                                                     | 3 March 2024     |
| <p>The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if—</p> <p>the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children;</p> <p>the child's placing authority consents in writing to the monitoring or surveillance;</p> <p>so far as reasonably practicable in the light of the child's age and understanding, the child is informed in advance of the intention to do the monitoring or surveillance; and</p> <p>the monitoring or surveillance is no more intrusive than necessary, having regard to the child's need for privacy. (Regulation 24 (1)(a)(c)(d))</p> | 18 February 2024 |

### Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the review of the quality of care report is submitted to Ofsted within 28 days of completion. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.2)

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** 1266838

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Active Ark Limited

**Registered provider address:** Active Ark, Unit E, Baron Way, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ

**Responsible individual:** Louise Matthews

**Registered manager:** Peter Furness

## Inspector

Julie Elder, Social Care Inspector

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