

1278022

Registered provider: Independent Living Services (North West) Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home provides care for up to three children who may have social or emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 3 October 2023.

Inspection date: 4 October 2023

This monitoring visit

On 22 and 23 August 2023, Ofsted inspected the children's home and judged it to be inadequate. A compliance notice was issued under Regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. The purpose of this visit was to monitor the provider's progress in meeting the compliance notice.

Developments have been made to the manager's monitoring systems. For example, the manager has introduced new monthly auditing tools, and any recommendations arising from using these auditing tools will be shared with the staff. The manager has introduced new processes to ensure that there is management oversight of all safeguarding matters and the quality of care that children receive.

The manager ensures that there are sufficient staff on each shift who have the relevant skills, experience, and knowledge to meet the needs of the children.

All staff are suitably trained in medication practice. In addition to the training, the manager has introduced systems to assess the skills of each staff member to administer medication. This means that only suitably skilled staff will administer medication to children.

Improvements have been made to children's plans. Plans have been reviewed, and they now provide clear strategies for staff to keep children safe. Managers challenge

shortfalls in staff practice to ensure that staff understand what is expected of them. This means that staff are supported to deliver consistency in care to children.

The provider has demonstrated that it has taken the necessary steps to ensure that the compliance notice issued under Regulations 13 is met.

Ofsted does not plan to take any further enforcement action. A further unannounced inspection will take place to continue to monitor the quality of care provided. The other requirements raised at the last inspection will be considered as part of the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/08/2023	Full	Inadequate
24/05/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/02/2022	Full	Inadequate
29/01/2020	Full	Outstanding

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 positive relationship standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding of acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)) This specifically relates to ensuring that staff meet each child's individual emotional needs and support children to learn about acceptable behaviour.	30 September 2023
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular the registered person must ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v))	30 September 2023

This specifically relates to staff understanding their responsibilities in keeping children safe.	
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— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the homes statement of purpose; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications, and skills to meet the needs of 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(f)) This specifically relates to having management arrangements in place which ensure that the staff are meeting the needs of each child and that the staff team provides consistency of care for each child.	30 September 2023
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medications received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and no other child; and a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)(c))	30 September 2023

This specifically relates to having arrangements in place to ensure medication is administered as prescribed and a record is kept of the administration of medication.	
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Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 1278022

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Independent Living Services (North West) Limited

Registered provider address: Suite 4 Ena Works, Volunteer Street, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 2AY

Responsible individual: Catherine Chandler

Registered manager: Rachel Youd

Inspector

Sally Griffiths, Social Care Inspector

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