

2483823

Registered provider: Esland North Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care and accommodation for a maximum of three children and/or young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, including, but not exclusively, mild to moderate learning disabilities. The home cares for children and/or young people aged between eight and 17. The home is privately owned.

The home's manager has been registered with Ofsted since September 2019.

Inspection date: 17 December 2019

Date of last inspection: 29 July 2019

Judgement at last inspection: 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 good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

Despite this home being judged as good at its full inspection, several shortfalls in practice have been identified during this inspection.

One young person has left the home since the last inspection. The ending of the placement was not planned and resulted in the young person having to move at short notice following a significant incident taking place.

Some parts of the home are unwelcoming and do not represent a homely and nurturing environment for young people. For example, a broken window to the property has been left for a significant amount of time without being repaired. However, senior management were quick to action this during the inspection.

Staff have failed to engage one young person living in the home. The young person is left for significant amounts of time in their bedroom with no structure or routine to their day. Although staff complete checks on this young person, these checks are effectively a paperwork exercise. Although attempts are being made, management and staff are failing to effectively form a meaningful relationship with this young person.

One young person is not accessing any education or therapeutic support despite this being in place prior to the placement commencing. The lack of education is having an impact on this young person's daily routines, as well as their future life chances. Although some attempts have been made by the manager, more should have been done to advocate on behalf of this young person to ensure that their needs are being met holistically.

A robust multi-agency approach is not always being taken to ensure that young people's needs are met. This has resulted in some miscommunication and plans in respect of young people not being as clear and transparent as they should be. On occasions, this has left young people extremely vulnerable.

There are some shortfalls in behaviour management in the home. Staff do not always demonstrate the skill and persistence to deal with young people's challenging behaviours effectively. Instead, incidents are left to escalate and, on occasions, are exacerbated by shortfalls in practice. This does not provide young people with a nurturing home environment or with a sense of security and belonging.

Some risk assessments have not been updated in response to serious incidents and events. Plans do not fully reflect the current concerns and areas of risk. They fail to provide staff with clear guidance about what actions they should take to reduce risks

and ensure young people's safety and well-being.

On one occasion, staff transported a young person to the train station, so they could go shopping in London. This was without any authorisation or agreement from the local authority or the home's manager. Although this did not result in the young person being harmed, given the young person's extreme vulnerability, it had the serious potential to do so.

There are some monitoring and review systems in place in the home. Despite this, on occasions, managers have not always identified and understood the impact of the quality of care being offered to young people. Although some incidents are reviewed, there is a lack of professional curiosity and challenge of some of the practice that has taken place. The management team was receptive to these shortfalls and is eager and committed to addressing them without delay.

Effective, robust monitoring and review systems need to be developed by the manager. This will assist to ensure that shortfalls in the home are immediately addressed and acted upon. In turn, this will help drive improvements to the service.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/07/2019	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, 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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. 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 and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(2)(c)(i))	31/01/2020
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— an understanding about acceptable behaviour. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff— understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children. (Regulation 11 (1)(b)(2)(a)(ix)(xii))	31/01/2020
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, that young people are helped to understand the impact of violence and bullying between peers.	27/12/2019

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the home’s day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(b))	
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— 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)(f))	31/01/2020

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: 2483823

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Esland North Limited

Registered provider address: Esland Limited, Suite 1, Riverside Business Centre, Foundry Lane, Milford, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0RN

Responsible individual: Lyndsey Sim

Registered manager: Nicola Carey

Inspector

Davinia Lawton, Social Care Inspector

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