

2506856

Registered provider: Active Ark Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private company owns this home. The home provides care for up to three children who may experience social and/or emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 22 January 2019.

Three children were living at the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 6 and 7 November 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **requires improvement to be good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 25 September 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/09/2023	Full	Good
13/12/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/06/2021	Full	Good
18/12/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The children living in this home say they are happy. They are supported by a consistent staff team, which has helped them to make progress in all areas of their lives.

Children's educational achievement is supported and celebrated. Two of the children are settled in school and college, and one child is moving on to their next provision, having completed their exams. Professionals and families say that the support provided by staff has helped the children to succeed. One professional said that the level of support is 'excellent'.

Children's views matter in the home, and these are gathered in a variety of ways, including children's meetings and individual time spent with key workers. This ensures that children feel valued and listened to.

Care plans are updated regularly and give clear strategies for staff to follow to help them to meet the needs of individual children. Good health is seen as important, and there are facilities in the home and activities nearby to help children develop into healthy adults. Health needs are responded to quickly and effectively when they arise.

Children are supported to have positive relationships with family, friends and those important to them. A family member, when commenting on the level of support that children receive, said, 'I can see it's not just a job to them; they really care.'

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Due to the work completed with children by staff, children have developed an understanding of risk and how to stay safe. There are still incidents that occur in the community, but these are reducing with the help of staff. Children respond to the help they receive, and following incidents, they talk with staff about what they would do differently. Children have completed online training courses to help them understand the risks all children face from the online world and the misuse of alcohol and substances.

Risk assessments are reviewed regularly, and risks are evaluated in response to incidents. These assessments show progress over time and are used as a visual aid for children in direct-work sessions. This helps children to gain a balanced view of their experiences and where they need further support.

Children are supported to manage their behaviour, and when appropriate, staff use consequences. However, staff do not always make clear the timescale for the consequence and occasionally give two consequences for one incident.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The manager is aware of the areas of strength and those in need of development. His monitoring of records and activity in the home has progressed, but there are still improvements to be made. The daily log, which shows the day-to-day activity in the home, often ends early in the evening without providing a full picture of the day.

The manager does not sign in when he is at the home and therefore does not evidence his level of commitment to being available for staff and children. He is visible and makes himself available to both staff and children if needed. He is supported by staff who are equally committed to ensuring that the children make progress and achieve their goals in life.

The manager has taken action to improve his monitoring and evaluation of records. However, incidents have taken place that have not been notified to Ofsted as required. This prevents Ofsted from ensuring that all relevant actions have been taken to safeguard children.

The manager has not submitted the review of the quality of care report in a timely way to Ofsted. However, there is evidence of feedback being gathered in preparation for completing the report.

Supervision takes place regularly and shows praise and encouragement to staff. Reflective practice is not included in the notes. This is an important tool to help develop the practice of staff and improve the experiences of children living here.

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 registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; (any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report"). 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; make a copy of the quality of care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home. The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))	30 November 2024

This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is re-stated	
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child — is instigated; or (concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry)); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. A notification made under this regulation— must include details of— the matter; the other persons, bodies or organisations (if any) who or which have been notified; any actions taken by the registered person as a result of the matter; must be made or confirmed in writing. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e) (5)(a)(i)(ii)(iii))	6 November 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff, including the manager and registered individual, sign into the daily log when they are in the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62 paragraph 14.3)
- The registered person should ensure that all consequences are proportionate and have timescales. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.38)
- The registered person should ensure that supervision sessions include the opportunity for reflective practice and that this is recorded. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.3)

Information about this 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: 2506856

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Active Ark Limited

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

Responsible individual: Louise Matthews

Registered manager: Simon Matthews

Inspector

Sue Atkinson Millmoor Ofsted Inspector

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