

2506856

Registered provider: Active Ark Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private organisation owns and manages the home. It provides care for up to three children who may experience social and/or emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 22 January 2019.

Inspection date: 8 September 2025

This monitoring visit

Ofsted judged this children's home to be inadequate at the full inspection on 15 and 16 July 2025. Two compliance notices were issued under regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard). This was due to serious concerns relating to the safety and protection of children and the widespread failings in the leadership and management arrangements of the home.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the progress and actions taken by the provider to meet the two compliance notices.

The manager and the responsible individual were present throughout the visit. Both were open about the fact that they had not completed the steps within the compliance notices.

A review of records confirmed that, following the full inspection, the registered manager held a meeting with staff to reflect on the outcome of the inspection and that actions were discussed. This included the appointment of a deputy manager, who is now in position, to assist the registered manager.

Children say that they are still happy living here and, following a good summer, are now attending their respective school and colleges. Records show that consultations with children now occur each week. There have been no further incidents of concern.

Following this monitoring visit, a case review was held and it was decided that both compliance notices had not been met. Compliance notices under regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard) were issued again. The requirements previously issued under regulations 14, 33, 36, 40, 44 and 45 were not reviewed during this visit. For this reason, they are restated. The recommendation made at the full inspection is met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/07/2025	Full	Inadequate
06/11/2024	Full	Good
25/09/2023	Full	Good
13/12/2022	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, 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 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; 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 home's statement of purpose; 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(f)(h))	19 October 2025
*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 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;	19 October 2025

have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi))	
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)(c)) In particular, ensure that the registered manager is appropriately supervised and appraised.	19 October 2025
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—	19 October 2025

must include details of— the matter; the other persons, bodies or organisations (if any) who or which have been notified; and 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))	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children’s home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that each child’s relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(c))	19 October 2025
The registered person must maintain records (“case records”) for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))	19 October 2025
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children’s home at least once each month. The independent person must produce a report about a visit (“the independent person’s report”) which sets out, in particular, the independent person’s opinion as to whether— children are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the home promotes children’s well-being. (Regulation 44 (1) (4)(a)(b))	19 October 2025

In particular, ensure that the independent visitor identifies shortfalls to help the registered manager and staff safeguard children.	
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; and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c)) In particular, ensure that there is an evaluation of the data and information and that action plans include timescales for service developments.	19 October 2025

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: 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

Susan Atkinson Millmoor, Social Care Inspector

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