

2506856

Registered provider: Active Ark Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It offers care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

The home and manager registered with Ofsted on 22 January 2019.

Inspection dates: 22 and 23 October 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted

Date of last inspection: 15 July 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: The home was judged to be inadequate at the last inspection. Two compliance notices under regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard) were issued. A monitoring visit was carried out on 8 September 2025 and the notices were restated as they had not been 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

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

The lack of effective leadership and management continues to affect staff's ability to ensure that children are safeguarded and reach their full potential.

Two of the children who lived at the home at the time of the first full inspection have now moved on to semi-independent living.

The child who lives at the home continues to make progress from their starting point. A consistent team of nurturing staff continue to support the child.

Staff see education as important and ensure that the child regularly attends school. The end-of-term school report indicates that the child is making progress in education.

The child's care plan still lacks all known up-to-date information. The care plan tells the story of the child's day-to-day life but is not effective in ensuring that staff have clear guidance to support the child. Records continue to be inaccurate.

Staff regularly consult the child about activities, food choices, and other issues, such as personalising their bedroom. This ensures that the child feels listened to and promotes a sense of belonging.

Staff encourage and support the child to maintain connections with their family and those who are important to them.

Feedback from professionals involved in the child's life is positive.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

The child says he feels safe at the home and has support from staff he trusts.

The manager reviews risk assessments. However, strategies to help staff minimise risk and safeguard children continue to be generic. Risk assessments and care plans do not consistently reflect incidents and concerns. This leaves the child at potential risk.

Recording of incidents and daily records has improved, but the language used does not always differentiate between an event and an incident of concern. This could lead to confusion, and opportunities to safeguard the child could be missed.

Incidents of children going missing from home are rare. Staff are aware of the protocols to follow to return the child quickly and safely should this occur.

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

The manager was only on site for a brief period during this inspection. The responsible individual led the inspection.

The manager has taken steps to meet the compliance notices, but those relating to care plans and risk assessments have not been fully addressed. Despite amending processes and introducing new formats, the effectiveness of these changes remains unclear.

The manager's supervision arrangements have not been addressed since the last full inspection. As a result, opportunities are missed to support and challenge the manager.

The manager has introduced new processes to monitor records and practice, including for staff supervision. However, there continues to be little evaluation of what the information means, and therefore staff development is hindered.

The workforce development plan has been updated; however, it does not contain all the elements identified in the standard. All essential training is up to date. However, additional training identified by the manager when reviewing the compliance notices has not yet taken place.

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 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))	30 November 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;	30 November 2025

have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(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))	30 November 2025
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.	30 November 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff record information clearly in files and reports. ('Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.3)
- The registered person should ensure that the workforce development plan contains all elements identified in the standard. ('Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.8)

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

Susan Atkinson Millmoor, Social Care Inspector

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