

2534827

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run home provides care for up to four children aged between 11 and 18 of single gender. The home specialises in care for children at risk of exploitation.

One child was living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The registered manager left on 8 August 2024. The home currently has no manager in post.

Inspection date: 25 March 2025

Date of last inspection: 8 October 2024

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspectors has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We identified the following widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance.

- Children have experienced unplanned and sudden moves from the home.
- There is a lack of assessment, planning and preparation for children moving to the home.
- Children have not been given the supervision levels required to enable them to participate in activities or go out.
- Poor management oversight of incidents.
- An absence of supervision and support for staff.
- A high turnover of staff.

Since the last inspection, the home has had no registered manager. A temporary manager was appointed to manage the home. A new manager was appointed on 26 February 2025. They have applied to register with Ofsted.

Children have not experienced well-planned transitions moving in or out of the home. Since the last inspection, two children have moved into the home and three children have moved out. Two children moved out of the home in an unplanned way. The home supported one child by taking them to their new home on the same day.

In the case of the two children who have moved into the home since the last inspection, the staff did not complete an assessment of the child's suitability to live in the home before accepting the referral for the child.

One child moved into the home for two days, with the child's time at the home ending with immediate effect when the child was in hospital. The child had only been in the house for a few hours.

The incident that led to the sudden ending of the child's time at the home was related to a known risk for the child. The staff said that this information was missing from the referral paperwork. However, this information was in the referral paperwork and had been risk-assessed in the assessment as to whether the home to meet the child's needs.

One child moved into the home on 24 December 2024. A lack of information-sharing during their move meant that the home did not have contact details for the child's family until early January 2025. This meant that the child was not able to have any contact with their family over the Christmas period. In addition, the home did not provide the staffing ratios required for court-imposed restrictions on the child's supervision in the community. This was not clarified with the local authority until 9

January 2025. This meant that the child was not able to go out on activities during this time.

There has been one incident of restraint since the last inspection. A manager who was involved in the restraint reviewed the record. This does not provide an independent review of the effectiveness, necessity and proportionality of the restraint.

Consequences are not always proportionate or restorative in nature. One imposed on a child had not been reviewed by a manager. Positive rewards are not always appropriate. One child was rewarded for positive behaviour by having toiletries replaced that were stolen by another child at the home.

Children are not permitted to have mobile phones when they move into the home. This is supported by the home's statement of purpose prohibiting mobile phones and SIM cards. This restriction is not individually assessed for each child.

Staff have not been supported with regular supervision sessions in line with the home's statement of purpose. This has failed to support staff throughout periods of change and high staff turnover.

There have been significant improvements in the decor and maintenance of the home since the last inspection. Many of the rooms have been redecorated and have new carpets. The home is welcoming, and the child has chosen new furnishings.

The child currently living at the home is making progress. There has been a significant reduction in risk for this child. The child is engaging in full-time education. There are no longer court-ordered restrictions for the child. The child said that they are happy living at the home, and that their voice is listened to in relation to their care.

The new manager is experienced and ambitious. She has a good understanding of what the home needs to do to improve and has a plan to address the quality of care offered to children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/05/2023	Full	Good
26/05/2022	Full	Good
04/08/2021	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, 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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose; that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority; and that each child's relevant plans are followed; that, subject to regulation 22 (contact and access to communications), contact between each child and the child's parents, relatives and friends, is promoted in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(iii)(c)(d))	6 May 2025

In particular, ensure that: ■ the assessment of the suitability of a child to live in the home is completed before accepting a referral for the child ■ the relevant contact information is held to follow a child's agreed contact plan at the point of admission into the home ■ children are supported to move in and out of the home in a planned, positive way.	
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 home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(d)(h)) In particular, ensure that reviews of restraint are conducted by someone who has not been involved in the restraint and that reviews of incidents consider the effectiveness of staff actions, actions to prevent recurrence and steps to improve the quality of care provided.	6 May 2025
Subject to paragraph (5), the registered person must ensure that children are provided at all reasonable times with access to the following facilities which they may use without reference to persons working in the home—	6 May 2025

a telephone on which to make and receive telephone calls in private. If the registered person considers it to be necessary for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of a child, the registered person may impose conditions, prohibitions or restrictions upon a child's— contact with parents, friends or relatives; access to communications under paragraph (3). No measure may be imposed by the registered person under paragraph (5) unless— the child's placing authority consents to the imposition of the measure; or the measure is imposed in an emergency, and full details are given to the placing authority within 24 hours of its imposition. (Regulation 22 (3)(a) (5)(a)(b) (6)(a)(b)) In particular, ensure that any restrictions placed on a child's communication are individually assessed, agreed with the local authority and regularly reviewed.	
Subject to paragraph (6), the registered person must ensure that the home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its statement of purpose. Nothing in paragraph (5) or regulation 46 (review of premises) requires or authorises the registered person to contravene or not comply with— any other provision of these Regulations. (Regulation 16 (5) (6)(a)) In particular, ensure that children are admitted to the home in line with the process outlined in the home's statement of purpose.	6 May 2025
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b))	6 May 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that any measures used to address poor behaviour are restorative in nature, to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour on themselves, other children, the staff caring for them and the wider community. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.38)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2534827

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: 5th Floor, Metropolitan House, 3 Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 1AG

Responsible individual: Dennise Springett

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Andrea Bounden, Social Care Inspector

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