

2535376

Registered provider: Area Camden Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home registered with Ofsted in August 2019 and provides care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 24 July 2024.

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

Inspection date: 26 February 2025

Date of last inspection: 8 May 2024

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector(s) evaluated:

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

Inspectors have 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

This visit was conducted to address specific concerns received by Ofsted.

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Allegations against staff members are managed appropriately. The provider appropriately reports safeguarding concerns to the relevant agencies and takes effective action to ensure that children are safeguarded.

Internal investigations are robust. Discussions with children take place to allow them to share their experiences. Leaders and managers show professional curiosity and review previous incidents and allegations against staff to explore any patterns or gaps in practice. Leaders and managers take appropriate action following internal investigations to improve staff practice. Where appropriate they discuss concerns in team meetings and individual staff supervision. Risk assessments are completed during the investigations to ensure that children are protected.

Safer recruitment practices are followed. Leaders and managers consistently explore gaps in staff employment and the reasons staff left previous employment. They respond well to new information from relevant agencies including the police. Leaders and managers have reviewed their recruitment processes to ensure that there are robust procedures to assess the suitability of staff to work with children.

The systems in place to review the quality of care provided to children are effective. Leaders and managers show appropriate understanding of the home's strengths and areas for improvement. They conduct regular audits to evaluate the quality of care and children's outcomes. They respond appropriately to external scrutiny including the independent person's reports and recommendations from their visits.

Staff understand child protection procedures and know who they need to speak to if there are concerns. Staff benefit from a variety of training that is relevant to the children's needs. Safeguarding procedures, including whistleblowing, is embedded in staff supervision and team meetings. Staff say that they enjoy working at the home and are supported effectively by managers who are always available. One member of staff said, 'This is the best place I have worked in; managers listen and always there to help.'

One new child living in the home has been welcomed sensitively. Staff are warm in their interactions with the child to help them settle into the home. They show appropriate understanding of the child's life experiences and how this impacts their behaviour. The child stated that they like the home and was observed to enjoy a birthday party with a personalised birthday cake.

Children are well prepared for independence with practical skills and emotional support. Two children who lived in the home since the last inspection have since moved to semi-independent accommodation. Staff recognise their role in helping children manage endings and how to stay in touch with their families and friends.

Leaders and managers work well with children's professional networks. Feedback from placing authorities is positive regarding the quality of care provided and communication from staff. There is a shared approach to providing children with good-quality care and support.

Staff update children's risk assessments and behaviour support plans when there are significant events or incidents affecting children. They identify appropriate strategies and further work to help keep children safe including individual keywork sessions. However, two children who have now left the home had information about another child on their lone working risk assessments. Leaders and managers identified this shortfall and have ensured that the new child living in the home has the appropriate information in their risk assessments.

The provider has met the requirement raised at the last inspection. One recommendation was not reviewed on this inspection has been restated. One additional recommendation has been made as a result of this assurance inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/05/2024	Full	Good
19/04/2023	Full	Good
06/12/2022	Full	Good
02/11/2021	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff have their performance and fitness to carry out their role formally appraised taking into account where reasonable and practical, the views of other professionals who have worked with the staff member and that staff contribute to their appraisal to reflect about their role. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 61, paragraph 13.5)
- The registered person should ensure that children's lone working risk assessments are sufficiently detailed and are specific to the individual children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 42, paragraph 9.5)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2535376

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Area Camden Limited

Registered provider address: Polaris, Malvern View, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 4AD

Responsible individual: Joanne Capuano

Registered manager: Tasmin Lewis

Inspectors

Dorothy Thompstone, Social Care Inspector
Amena Begum, Social Care Inspector

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