

2577014

Registered provider: Advanced Adolescent Care Solutions Limited

Assurance 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 provides care for one child who may have social and emotional difficulties.

There has been no registered manager at the home since 1 May 2024.

Inspection date: 17 December 2024

Date of last inspection: 8 October 2024

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors 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 inspection was brought forward in order to address specific concerns or allegations received by Ofsted.

Ofsted identified the following serious and widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection:

- Failure to ensure that effective systems are in place to review and investigate any concerns or allegations about staff.
- Failure to ensure that staff have the skills to safeguard the child living at the home, or the children that they are having contact with.
- Failure to ensure that there is adequate leadership and management at the home.
- Failure to ensure that staff are safe to work with children.

Children have been placed at risk of harm because leaders and managers have not identified risks to the child and they have made poor decisions about the protection of children. The risk of sexual harmful behaviour is not fully understood by managers and staff, and risk management is poor. Staff have not always acted in a way that safeguards children. This is because they have not provided the child and other children with appropriate and safe supervision.

Leaders and managers have failed to ensure that staff know the signs when a child is likely to go missing, and their responsibility to safeguard children. Staff took the child to a location that increased the likelihood of the child going missing. This led to a serious incident when the child went missing with another child.

The provider has failed to ensure that there is adequate leadership and management at the home. It is unclear who is in day-to-day charge of the home together with who is having oversight of the home. Furthermore, it is unclear what the longer-term plans are for the leadership and management of this home, as the new manager and responsible individual are not able to currently work at the home.

Allegation management is poor. When investigations into allegations take place, they have not always been carried out by someone with the relevant skills to do so. In addition, investigations into allegations have not always been undertaken by someone who is independent. Furthermore, one fact-finding investigation was undertaken by a person who has had concerns raised about their own past practice. It is unclear from the recording who has been involved with the investigation.

The child sometimes struggles to manage their emotions in a safe way. The director was at the home and went to speak to the child about this. This is not the role of a director, who does not have the necessary skills in this specialist area.

Full recruitment checks in line with safe recruitment practice have not been completed for one member of staff.

Leaders and managers have not ensured that Ofsted is notified when a child protection investigation has commenced in respect of the child living at the home. The manager and staff did not know what actions are being taken and by who in respect of this investigation. This prevents Ofsted from having oversight of what is happening at the home.

The manager and staff said that consequences to behaviour are not being used at this home. However, information recorded in incident reports indicates that staff are using consequences, and that the measures used are not always proportionate and they are not restorative. Poor recording prevents the manager from having full oversight of behaviour management used in the home.

The arrangement for the child's education is home tuition. The child is making progress in their education from their starting point, and staff promote positive routines for the child during the school day.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/10/2024	Full	Good
12/09/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/11/2022	Full	Good
02/02/2022	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 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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; 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; and that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(b))	23 February 2025
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—	23 February 2025

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; 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; and 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))	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children’s safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children’s home; or if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform; and full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma") or	23 February 2025

a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(b)(d) (4)(a)(b) (5)(a))	
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— 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). (Regulation 40 (4)(d)(i)(ii))	23 February 2025
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; and the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(vii))	23 February 2025

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2577014

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Advanced Adolescent Care Solutions Limited

Registered provider address: 38 Sherwood Road, Worksop S80 1QW

Responsible individual: Donna McGreavy

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Rachel Webster, Social Care Inspector

Angela Ross, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024