

2592943

Registered provider: Halliwell Homes

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a private children's home registered to provide care for up to eight children. The home has an attached registered school.

There is a new manager in post in the home, who took up position in April 2022. Ofsted is currently processing her application for registration with Ofsted.

The inspectors only inspected the social care provision at this school.

Inspection date: 23 August 2022

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 26 and 27 July 2022. Ofsted issued two compliance notices under regulation 12, the protection of children standard and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. Ofsted also raised a further seven requirements. These requirements have not been assessed as part of this monitoring visit.

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

Leaders and managers have ensured that all the children have had their risk assessments and behaviour support plans reviewed. This means that staff are provided with the strategies and guidance they need to safely manage risk and keep the children in their care safe.

There has been an improvement in how staff supervise children in the home. For example, the manager has introduced new systems to reduce the risk of children going into each other's bedrooms. This includes changing start times for staff and using a log that identifies which children have gone upstairs. These systems promote improvements to the quality of care and provide a system which ensures that children are safeguarded from potential harm.

The home's environment has improved. Anti-climb spikes have been removed from gates around the home and anti-ligature blind cords have been fitted to reduce the risk of self-harm. Furthermore, pictures and soft furnishings along with wall murals displaying positive messages have been added to create a more homely environment.

Staff do not receive regular supervision. This minimises the opportunity for consistent care and staff to be aware of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe and support them to thrive.

Some of the measures that the manager has put in place to address online safety are not proportionate. For example, children no longer have access to the remote controls for the televisions in their bedrooms. If a child would like to change a television channel, they have to ask the staff to do this. This punitive approach does not promote a positive environment.

The home has been reliant on the use of agency staff. Leaders and managers have not ensured that safer recruitment processes are followed. Agency staff are working in the home without full and verified employment checks and references. This does not provide children with safe care. Furthermore, leaders and managers do not ensure that the agency staff used have the necessary skills and training to care for the children or to meet their specific and complex needs. This means that children are not provided with continuity of care or a stable environment as set out in the aims and objectives of the home's statement of purpose.

Following this monitoring visit, a further compliance notice was issued under regulation 13, the leadership and management standard.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/07/2022	Full	Inadequate
13/07/2021	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, 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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; protect and promote each child's welfare; and help each child to understand and manage the impact of any experience of abuse or neglect. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(v)) Specifically, ensure that children are supported when they are subject to racist abuse from peers.	25 September 2022
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults.	25 September 2022

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans; help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child’s behaviour, in accordance with the child’s age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; communicate to each child expectations about the child’s behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child’s age and understanding; help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child’s age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful; help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship; and are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(x)) This relates to ensuring that children are supported when making disclosures against peers and that all children involved are supported to be aware of their behaviours.	
*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.	16 October 2022

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 have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; 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)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)) In particular, ensure that the manager's oversight is developed to ensure the quality of care delivered to children is improved.	
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— full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(d))	25 September 2022

This specifically relates to ensuring that all staff working in the home have full references, employment history and identification checks.	
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must keep the behaviour management policy under review and, where appropriate, revise it. The registered person must ensure that— The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (2) (3)(b)(i)(ii)) This relates to ensuring that staff involved in physical interventions are not completing the management oversight. Additionally, where measures have been ineffective, ensure that behaviour plans are reviewed to avoid the continual use of these measures.	25 September 2022
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which—	25 September 2022

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)) This specifically relates to children's daily records being kept up to date to accurately record their journey and progress.	
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. 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) (2)(b) (4)(a)(b)) In particular, ensure that the independent visitor highlights safeguarding concerns about the care and the environment to Ofsted.	25 September 2022
The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12 (2)(c) (the protection of children standard). When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person. (Regulation 46 (1)(2))	25 September 2022

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that prescribed medicines are only administered to the individual for whom they are prescribed. Medicines must be administered in line with a medically approved protocol. Records must be kept of the administration of all medication. Regulation 23 requires the registered person to ensure that they make suitable arrangements to manage, administer and dispose of any medication. These are fundamentally the same sorts of arrangements as a good parent would make but are subject to additional safeguards. This relates to ensuring clear protocols are in place for any medication administered in the home. Also, ensure that controlled medication is witnessed and signed at the time of dispensing. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35, paragraph 7.15)
- The registered person should ensure that electronic records should be held at the individual home in accordance with data protection principles. IT systems should ensure the safe storage of these records. This relates to staff accessing electronic information about children on personal mobile phones when not at work. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 14.2)
- The registered person should ensure that any home using other monitoring equipment has a written policy describing how this will support the safeguarding and well-being of those living and working in the home in accordance with regulation 24. This relates to assessing if door alarms are required for each child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.16)

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: 2592943

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Halliwell Homes limited

Registered provider address: Pearce House, 80 Cawdor Street, Eccles M30 0QF

Responsible individual: Paul Bliss

Registered manager: Post Vacant

Inspectors

Dave Carrigan, Social Care Inspector
Mrs Sonia Sullivan, Social Care Inspector

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