

2593046

Registered provider: Laska Care and Education Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and run by a private organisation and provides care for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties. Two children were living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The home does not have a registered manager. A manager has been appointed, but they have not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 26 September 2023

Date of last inspection: 12 April 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector 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

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

The children can identify trusted adults they can talk to. Staff assist the children to share their wishes and any concerns during individual discussions. Occasionally, children have said that staff do not listen to them. The new manager encourages the children to talk to their social workers and has attempted to secure advocate support, but this has not yet happened.

Staff spend time with the children accessing activities such as going to the seaside and shopping. Staff work with children to develop their interests such as attending youth clubs and various religious activities. This provides the children with positive new experiences to enjoy.

Staff work with children to have their health needs met and are available to help children with their emotions. Staff also benefit from having monthly clinical advice from a practitioner, which helps them better understand how to support the children's individual needs.

Staff work with children around attending education and offer children support to overcome any challenges they face.

Children are supported to have a positive and sensitive move into the home. One child said, 'Visiting the home and having all the information to read really helped me to settle in quickly.'

On some occasions, staff have physically intervened to keep children safe and prevent injury to themselves and others. Leaders and managers provide effective independent oversight of these incidents. Children and staff are given the opportunity to understand and reflect on events and look at ways to prevent reoccurrence.

Staff and the manager are clear about responsibilities around safeguarding incidents and ensure that concerns around allegations are shared with appropriate agencies.

Staff search for children when they leave the home without permission and are aware of the procedures for notifying and reporting missing from care incidents.

Children's risk assessments are updated following significant incidents. This helps staff understand children's associated risks, and staff offer children appropriate support to reduce these risks. However, there are gaps in recordings around some significant incidents and daily events. This makes it difficult to understand any actions taken by staff and whether children have been offered care in line with their individual risk assessments and care plans.

Management arrangements have been strengthened and the new manager has monitoring systems in place to review the quality of care provided. However, these systems need further embedding because gaps in recordings mean that the manager does not have all required information to ensure appropriate management oversight of significant incidents. This means the manager is not able to monitor the effectiveness of staff responses or consider whether follow-up actions are needed to effectively safeguard children.

Supervision sessions are conducted by an external person to the organisation who has not gone through the required safer recruitment processes. Staff have gaps in their supervision records. This means staff are not provided with a copy of agreed actions, and it is unclear if they have consistent opportunities to reflect on the care offered to the children.

The responsible individual has experienced challenges sourcing consistent professional support to help staff complete the necessary level 3 diploma. This means one staff member had lapsed the timeframe to complete the qualification, but continues to be working towards this.

The interior decoration of the home has been refurbished and looks more welcoming, with children's photos displayed in the lounge and communal areas. The responsible individual understands the benefits of ensuring that children have sufficient necessities to support them to live comfortably. Repairs are required to the household equipment to reduce the likelihood of children sustaining injuries. The manager is also required to ensure oversight of the home so that the children continue to have food and nutrition in line with their dietary needs.

Leaders and managers have been proactive in progressing some of the requirements from the previous inspection. However, not all requirements have been fully met, resulting in three requirements being restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/04/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/07/2022	Full	Good
22/03/2022	Full	Good
14/09/2021	Full	Inadequate

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 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; 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)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that recording of children's significant incidents, risk assessments and oversight of any incidents clearly promote children's welfare and meet their needs in line with their care plans.	24 November 2023
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 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 the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child;	24 November 2023

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)(d)(f)(h)) This requirement has been restated.	
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff members receive debriefs and supervision from a person independent and free from any possible conflict of interest to promote children’s welfare. This requirement has been restated.	24 November 2023
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 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. 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 a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma.	24 November 2023

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; or

in the case of an individual who was working in a care role in a home on 1st April 2014, 1st April 2016.

(Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(b) (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)(b))

This requirement has been restated.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2593046

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Laska Care And Education Limited

Registered provider address: Euroway House, Roysdale Way, Bradford BD4 6SE

Responsible individual: Garfield Binns

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Gina Lightfoot, Social Care Inspector

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