

2624784

Registered provider: Care2Care Children's Home Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private provider operates this home. It provides care for up to four children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in April 2021. The registered manager post has been vacant since December 2023. There is an interim manager overseeing the home.

Inspection date: 7 January 2025

Date of last inspection: 31 July 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 inspector 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 did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection. Progress has been made against the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved into the home in a planned way. Managers now ensure that they have sufficient knowledge around the child's individual support needs to inform detailed pre-placement assessments. As part of this process, managers now review staff's skills and experience to assess whether they can meet the child's needs. The child is settled in the home and has developed good relationships with staff.

Another child moved from the home because of their changing needs. Leaders and managers worked closely with the child's social worker to support the child's move. The child enjoyed a holiday with staff before leaving.

Leaders and managers act quickly to safeguard children. They notify appropriate external professionals when the child is at risk of harm, including when they are missing from the home. Staff regularly talk to the child about how to keep themselves safe. This is an effective approach to safeguarding.

Overall, children's records are of good quality, however, the manager had not carried out a timely review of one risk assessment. Staff did not have accurate information about the current risk or clear guidance on how to reduce this for the child.

Since the last inspection, there have been three changes of manager at the home. A previous interim manager is now overseeing the home while a permanent manager and deputy manager are recruited. Inconsistent leadership has, at times, left staff feeling uncertain and unsupported.

The new responsible individual regularly visits the home. Leadership is becoming more stable, with positive support available for managers.

The development of the home is a strong focus for leaders and managers, who have proposed plans to improve the child's support. This includes a change to staff working patterns to provide greater consistency in the child's day-to-day routines. Leaders and managers understand the impact this change is having on staff.

Staff receive effective support to learn and develop in their roles, through training, regular supervision and discussions in team meetings. Leaders and managers work with staff to continually improve the quality of care at the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/07/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/07/2023	Full	Good
21/06/2022	Full	Good
02/03/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be 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; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; 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; and that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)) In particular, leaders and managers must ensure that children's risk assessments are updated in a timely way so that staff have accurate information to help them to minimise harm to children.	28 February 2025
The registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children's home if— there is no registered manager in respect of the home.	28 February 2025

If the registered provider appoints a person to manage the home, the registered provider must, without delay, give HMCI notice of—

the name of the person so appointed; and

the date on which the appointment takes effect.

(Regulation 27 (1)(a) (2)(a)(b))

In particular, leaders and managers must ensure that they employ a permanent person to manage the home, and that the person submits an application to register.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2624784

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Care2Care Children's Home Ltd

Registered provider address: Room 147, 981 Great West Road, Brentford TW8 9DN

Responsible individual: Anthony McKenzie

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Thobekile Bandama, Social Care Inspector

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