

2641767

Registered provider: Real Care Support Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private provider. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five children.

At the time of the inspection, the registration of this home was suspended. Therefore, there were no children living in the home.

There is an acting manager in post who at the time of the inspection had not yet applied to register.

Inspection date: 26 April 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **inadequate**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **inadequate**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **inadequate**

There are serious and/or widespread failures that mean that children and young people are not protected or their welfare is not promoted or safeguarded and/or the care and experiences of children and young people are poor and they are not making progress.

Date of last inspection: 1 February 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on the 1 February 2022. Following the full inspection, a notice suspending registration of this home was issued on 3 February 2022, until 27 April 2022. A monitoring visit took place on 14 March 2022 which found the home had complied with the suspension notice.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/02/2022	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: inadequate

There have been no children living in the home since the last inspection. The registration of the home was suspended at the last full inspection, in February 2022. The purpose of this inspection is to assess the progress that has been achieved since the last inspection and to look at whether the temporary suspension of the home's registration can be lifted.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: inadequate

Since the last inspection, relevant records, such as impact risk assessments and behaviour management plans, have been reviewed. There have been updates made to the documents to assist with the effective matching of children's needs and how these needs can be managed to reduce risk.

There are also plans in place to rectify issues of poor maintenance, with the introduction of an nominated health and safety officer, a dedicated maintenance person and the introduction of weekly checks.

Safer recruitment policies are not always followed, with documents missing from some staff personnel files. Poor recruitment practices have the potential to negatively affect the safety and well-being of children living at the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: inadequate

Since the last inspection, staff have received a range of training. This has included training in safeguarding, therapeutic parenting, first aid and an introduction to psychology.

Staff have also benefited from weekly reflection sessions to identify areas of good practice as well as ways to improve their practice. Staff have also reflected on incidents that led to the temporary suspension of the home, as a group and individually. Shortfalls have been identified and ways to improve have been recognised.

Not all staff are receiving supervision. Some concerns identified about staff at the previous inspection had not been dealt with by leaders and managers.

The management structure of the home has changed. The previous acting manager is now the deputy manager, and a second deputy has been appointed. A new acting manager started in post in April 2022. They are yet to apply to be registered with Ofsted.

The Children's Homes Regulations require a provider to employ a suitably qualified and experienced person with the skills to manage a children's home, who is of good character and integrity. The regulations also require the provider to ensure that they have full and satisfactory information in place regarding that person.

Ofsted is not assured, at this time, that the management arrangements are sufficient to ensure that children will be adequately safeguarded.

Following the inspection, a case review was held. A decision was reached that a further suspension notice should be issued. This will allow leaders and managers to continue to make necessary improvements in line with their development plan, including enabling a suitably qualified person to apply to be the registered manager of the home.

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 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 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)(b))	19 July 2022
A person may only manage a children's home if— the person is of integrity and good character; having regard to the size of the home, its statement of purpose, and the number and needs (including any needs arising from any disability) of the children— the person has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills to manage the home effectively and lead the care of children; and the person is physically and mentally fit to manage the home; and full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the person in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 28 (1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	19 July 2022
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	19 July 2022

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 is of integrity and good character; the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform; the individual is mentally and physically fit for the purposes of 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. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(a)(b)(c)(d))	
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b))	19 July 2022

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that any sanctions used to address poor behaviour should be restorative in nature to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.38)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2641767

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Real Care Support Ltd

Registered provider address: 1st Floor, West Wing, Derby House, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 8JE

Responsible individual: Peter Barron

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Rachael Crook, Social Care Inspector
Julia Toller, Regulatory Inspection Manager

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