

2651794

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private provider.

It is registered to provide care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties. Two children are currently living in the home.

There has been no registered manager since 19 October 2023. An acting manager is in post and has submitted their application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 22 March 2024

Date of last inspection: 29 November 2023

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

- Safety plans were not implemented in a timely way to emerging risk.
- Staff did not adhere to the safety plan when it was implemented.
- The manager did not identify the shortfalls in staff practice.
- Information was not shared, or not shared in a timely way, with relevant professionals and agencies.

Not all staff are familiar with the children and their routines. There have been several changes to the staff team, and staff from other homes in the organisation work in the home to cover shortages. Children have not experienced continuity of care.

Children have positive experiences moving into the home. The manager assesses all the relevant needs of a child when considering whether they can be met. Children meet staff and visit the home before they move in.

The home is well maintained. Staff help children to personalise their bedrooms in line with their interests and tastes. Communal areas contain children's artwork and photos of people that are important to them. Children have ownership of their space and are comfortable in the home.

The risks to the children are known and understood. Risk assessments are regularly updated and contain clear strategies for staff to use. However, the manager did not immediately implement a safety plan in relation to emerging risks impacting both children in the home. When a safety plan was implemented, it was not fully followed by staff.

The manager has not ensured that relevant agencies and professionals have been notified of serious incidents without delay. Therefore, children have lacked external oversight of their plans and care.

Children have individual missing-from-home plans. When children go missing from home, the individual plans are followed by staff. Staff make every effort to locate children quickly. The manager updates the plans using learning from previous missing-from-home episodes. This ensures that the plans contain current and relevant information for staff to use.

Staff undertake room searches where there is a safeguarding reason to do so. Staff inform children of their intentions and ask them to be present. Staff ensure that children's bedrooms are safe and maintain their privacy and dignity.

Not all children are attending an educational provision. One child has now started at a mainstream provision, and staff have identified a suitable provision for another. Staff ensure that children have routine and structure to their days, to prepare them for attendance in education.

Children's physical health needs are known and met. Staff have knowledge of children's specialist health needs and how these impact their daily lives. Children's emotional health needs are not always met. Staff did not seek the views of a child in response to a significant incident or offer emotional support.

The manager does not have a copy of the placing authority's plan for all children in the home. Therefore, it is unclear whether the home is meeting the aims of these plans.

Staff complete mandatory training. There is one staff member who has not completed their qualification within the required time frame. The manager has a plan to support staff to complete their diploma.

An independent person visits the home monthly. The independent person has not spoken to any of the children's families since the home opened.

The manager failed to identify when staff did not adhere to safety plans for the children. The safety of children was compromised, and practice shortfalls were not addressed by the manager.

The manager has not addressed all requirements made at the last inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/11/2023	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— understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; and take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi)) Specifically, ensure that staff understand and adhere to any safety plans implemented to protect the children in their care.	2 May 2024
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, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h)) Specifically, ensure that the manager's oversight identifies shortfalls in staffing or practice and addresses them. This is restated from the last inspection.	2 May 2024

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; 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— ensure that staff— provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background. (Regulation 6(1)(a)(b)(2)(b)(iv)) In particular, that staff should offer children the opportunity to express their feelings and provide emotional support when this is required.	28 March 2024
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; 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); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))	2 May 2024
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which—	11 April 2024

include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)) Specifically, ensure that there is a copy of any plan for the care of the child prepared by the child's placing authority. This is restated from the last inspection.	
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 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. 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. The relevant date is—	2 May 2024

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)(a)(b)(c)(d) (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)(b)) This is restated from the last inspection.	
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— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a))	13 June 2024

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2651794

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Oaktree Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: Ground Floor, Seneca House, Links Point, Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool FY4 2FF

Responsible individual: Lee Prescott

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sarah Huntbatch, Social Care Inspector

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Manchester
M1 2WD

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