

2666995

Registered provider: Assure Care Homes Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care for up to two children who have social and emotional difficulties. It is owned by a private organisation.

The manager and the home have been registered with Ofsted since 18 November 2021. The home has not been previously inspected.

Inspection date: 24 February 2022

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out to assess the practices of managers and staff in response to incidents that have been notified to Ofsted. Two children have lived in this home since it was first registered. One child moved out quickly due to the staff's inability to keep him safe.

When children move into the home, their needs are not adequately assessed and planned for. There is a lack of scrutiny by leaders and managers to ensure that risks are fully understood and minimised. The compatibility of the children and the staff's skill set are not fully considered. Therefore, suitable preparation does not occur.

Risks that have been identified through the children's referral and admissions information, and subsequent incidents, have not been responded to effectively. Despite risk assessments being updated, the staff's practice has not been adequately changed to keep the children and staff safe. This has resulted in an escalation of incidents, including a serious fire-setting incident that could have been prevented if appropriate action had been taken earlier.

Staff lack the necessary skills and confidence to meet the children's known needs. Training records shown to the inspector, and the description of the staff's training by

the registered manager, fail to show that the staff possess the training and skills that they need to help the children to reduce their risk-taking behaviour.

Supervision records are poor. These do not show clear direction to staff or appropriate levels of support when staff have been involved in challenging incidents. The frequency of supervision does not meet the home's policy and staff are not able to talk confidently about either the regularity or purpose of supervision. This does not provide staff with appropriate support.

The use of physical intervention is minimal. However, when incidents of physical intervention do occur, reports do not make clear the methods used and refer simply to the name of the restraint. This lack of clarity means that there is potential for inaccurate reporting and insufficient scrutiny of incidents. In one example, the child was not spoken to following a physical intervention to check how they were, and no medical treatment was offered despite injuries being noted.

Staff were unable to confirm whether a child had been registered with relevant health services or had attended any appointments. Leaders and managers said that one appointment had been recorded in the house communication book but there was no record on the child's file.

Weekly fire checks have been undertaken by staff. These have identified faults in fire doors and emergency lighting, but the checks have not prompted leaders and managers to take swift action to fix them. This lack of urgency, combined with the lack of fire and first-aid training for staff, puts children at unnecessary risk of harm.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
-----------------	-----------------	----------------------

Not previously inspected.		
---------------------------	--	--

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 health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— take part in activities, and attend any appointments, for the purpose of meeting the child's health and well-being needs. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(iii))	10 April 2022
*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; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(vi))	10 April 2022

*If the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 applies to the home— the registered person must ensure that the requirements of that Order and any regulations made under it, except for article 23 (duties of employees), are complied with in respect of the home. (Regulation 25 (2)(b))	6 March 2022
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b))	10 April 2022
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— a description of the measure and its duration; the name of the person who used the measure (“the user”), and of any other person present when the measure was used; a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; 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; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.	10 April 2022

(Regulation 35 (3)(iv)(vi)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	
The registered person must ensure that— at all times, at least one person on duty at the home has a suitable first aid qualification. (Regulation 31 (2)(a))	10 April 2022
*The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children’s home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home’s statement of purpose; that arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i))	10 April 2022

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the response to recent notifications.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2666995

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Assure Care Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: Unit 4, Northbrook Industrial Estate, Hollybrook Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 6PB

Responsible individual: Luencina Zankl

Registered manager: Ryan Thirlwell

Inspector

Mark Newington, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022