

2673338

Registered provider: Theracare Homes Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company. It provides care for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted on 6 April 2022. The registered manager post has been vacant since 22 November 2022.

There is currently an experienced manager in post who has applied to register with Ofsted. The new manager has the relevant skills and experience for the role.

At the time of this inspection, there were no children living at the home.

Inspection date: 12 October 2023

This monitoring visit

The home was judged as inadequate at the full inspection on 2 November 2022. Two compliance notices and a notice restricting accommodation were served following the inspection due to the poor safeguarding practice and leadership and management of the home.

At the monitoring visit on 24 January 2023, no children were living at the home and there was no manager or staff in post. A further notice restricting accommodation was issued. At the monitoring visit, the provider confirmed their intention to close the home temporarily. As such, Ofsted made the decision to impose a variation of the home's conditions of registration. This required the provider to give Ofsted three months' notice of their intention to care for children.

The provider wrote to Ofsted in July 2023 with a confirmation of their intention to care for children again from October 2023. The purpose of this monitoring visit was to look at the action taken by the provider to address the serious shortfalls identified at the full inspection and consider whether the three-month condition can be lifted.

At the time of this visit, no children were living in the home. No children have moved into the home since the last monitoring visit. This demonstrates that the provider has complied with the three-month condition.

The inspector found that steps have been taken by the provider to address the shortfalls identified at the full inspection. The new manager is an experienced registered manager within the same organisation. They have ensured that all staff assigned to work at the home have completed a robust induction programme. Staff have completed enhanced training and attended workshops in key areas, including safeguarding children, professional curiosity, behaviour management and recording. This has helped to develop staff's knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe.

The provider has also strengthened its internal policy on staff conduct to make it clear what the expected standards of behaviour are and the consequences if these are not followed by staff. All staff have read and signed the policy to confirm their understanding of the expectations.

There is a sufficient number of staff working at the home to meet children's individual needs. The staff have relevant experience and are suitably qualified. The new manager has the relevant skills and experience for the role and is in the process of submitting an application to register with Ofsted.

Due to the good progress and the improvements that have been made since the full inspection, Ofsted has removed the condition that required the registered person to inform Ofsted of their intention to accommodate children at the home at least three months before any child is accommodated.

The requirements and recommendations raised at the previous inspection have not been considered as part of this monitoring visit. These will be reviewed at the next full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/11/2022	Full	Inadequate
27/07/2022	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(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 with 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 In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans; understand the child's health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child's health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding; understand and develop skills to promote the child's well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iv)) This requirement was made at a previous inspection and is restated.	17 December 2023
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that—	17 December 2023

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— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and 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. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (3)(a)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)) In particular, review consequences to ensure that those given are proportionate, effective and in line with the children's needs and level of understanding. This requirement was made at a previous inspection and is restated.	
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c)) This requirement was made at a previous inspection and is restated.	17 December 2023
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;	17 December 2023

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)) This requirement was made at a previous inspection and is restated.	
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; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies;	17 December 2023

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; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(e))	
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— 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 staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; 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)(c)(h))	17 December 2023
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. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a))	17 December 2023

This regulation applies to a child who is looked after by a local authority. The registered person must co-operate with the child's placing authority in agreeing and signing the child's placement plan. (Regulation 17 (1) (2))	17 December 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; 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. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(a)(b)(c)(d))	17 December 2023

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

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

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2673338

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Theracare Homes Limited

Registered provider address: 10 Ambassador Place, Stockport Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8DB

Responsible individual: Simon Haddrell

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Jessica Higginson, Social Care Inspector

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