

2688299

Registered provider: A Wilderness Way Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care for up to six children in four separate buildings. This is a multi-building children's home.

The home registered as a multi-building children's home in January 2024. The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2024.

Inspection date: 25 March 2025

Date of last inspection: 3 June 2024

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have 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 visit.

Since the last inspection, the service has had eleven children living in their homes. Seven of the children have moved on in line with their care plans and four children are currently living in the homes. Children are cared for by a stable staff team, which leads to consistency for the children.

Children's plans now include up-to-date information from placing authorities, for example court directed orders, education, health and care planning documents. This means staff have up-to-date information in relation to children to meet their current needs.

Children living in the home are now making good progress, notably in education, health and regulating their emotions. When children have disengaged with education, the management team and staff have taken swift action to look for ways to educate the children informally and support them back into a more suitable individualised education package.

Staff support children to attend routine health appointments and their annual health assessments. The manager has identified specialist services to support meeting the children's needs, such as epilepsy support.

Staff actively promote and encourage the children to speak to and see their family members when it is safe to do so. This ensures that the children remain in contact with the people who are important to them and creates a sense of identity.

Staff now have a better understanding of the children's risks and vulnerabilities and follow suitable risk assessments and behaviour management plans. These are now regularly reviewed and updated. Appropriate strategies are in place to support staff to reduce and minimise risk. However, when staff dynamically risk assess a situation, such as a child self-administering medication, clear documentation of this and the decision-making process should be recorded.

Staff are trained and understand the full range of behaviour management techniques to help support children. Restraint is low and is only ever used as a last resort to safeguard children. Recordings of these now meet regulation, and this is a clear improvement.

On occasions when children have gone missing from home, staff take swift action to look for the child and work with the police and family members to return the child home safely. Children are offered an independent return to care interview and are spoken to by a staff member. This supports the staff to understand the reason the

child went missing and to adopt any new strategies to reduce and minimise the risk in the future.

Allegations, complaints and whistle-blowing are managed in line with policy and procedures. The members of the management team ensure that they consult with the local authority designated officer and the placing authority to make sure that they are thoroughly investigated and brought to a resolve.

Serious events have been notified to Ofsted. However, some of the notifications have been delayed. This does not allow the regulator to have sufficient oversight and scrutiny in a timely manner.

Staff receive a thorough induction when joining the team and have access to a detailed training programme that includes training that is identified to meet the specific needs of the children in their care. Regular house meetings and whole service meetings are now taking place. Supervisions are conducted by people who are trained to do so. This offers a space for the staff and managers to reflect on their practice.

Internal monitoring of the home has improved. As a result, the members of the management team regularly review the quality of the children's care and the impact this is having on their progress. Staff are provided with adequate support and guidance. Any shortfalls are identified quickly and action taken to address them is done so in a timely manner.

The manager values external monitoring and scrutiny of the home and considers any recommendations made. The members of the management team gather feedback from children, staff, professionals, and family members. This is analysed and supports the manager to develop the service.

Nine requirements raised at the last inspection are met. Two recommendations were raised at this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/06/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/02/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
31/01/2023	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children's home staff take reasonable precautions and make informed professional judgements based on the individual child's needs and developmental-stage about when to allow a child to take a particular risk or follow a particular course of action. Specifically, this recommendation is made in relation to the child administering their own medication. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.7)
- The registered person should ensure that they have a system in place so that all serious events are notified within 24 hours, to the appropriate people and the regulator. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.13)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2688299

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: A Wilderness Way Limited

Registered provider address: Stoneybeck, Penrith CA11 8RP

Responsible individual: Adele Pemberton

Registered manager: Richard Easingwood

Inspectors

Julie Elder, Social Care Inspector

Deborah Turner, Social Care Inspector

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