

2700720

Registered provider: Abbey Green Therapeutic Children's Services Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by an independent provider. It provides care for up to three children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager is appropriately qualified.

Inspection date: 7 February 2024

Date of last inspection: 2 May 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 did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children living in this home are making good progress from their starting points. Staff support children to attend school and are visible if support is required. Children are given clear and consistent boundaries. Risks are managed well, and there is a good multi-agency approach, which keeps children safe.

The home is furnished and decorated to a good standard. Children's bedrooms are personalised and reflect the children's interests. Communal areas are very child-focused, and there is evidence of staff encouraging children to explore their interests.

Relationships are very positive between staff and children, and strong attachments have been made. Staff speak highly of the children, and one child said that they like living in the home. Staff ensure that children have positive memories.

Staff promote the physical and mental health of the children well. A therapist works with staff to help them address the complex emotional needs of the child; she is also available for staff. In addition, staff work closely with other specialists in mental health services to ensure that children's mental health needs are fully addressed.

Children rarely go missing from this home. When they do, the staff follow agreed procedures, and children's families are included in the process. This allows new approaches to be identified to keep children safe from the known risks of being missing from care. Physical interventions are rare and used as a last resort; staff use less restrictive measures to support children to understand and manage their emotions.

Staff speak positively about the manager. They say that they are very well supported in their roles and day-to-day practice.

The manager was open and honest about times when they have struggled. They are aware of their and the team's strengths and areas they wish to improve. There is strong evidence of learning from the previous shortfalls and an aspiration to provide the best help and support for children.

At this assurance visit, the requirements made at the last inspection were reviewed. One requirement was met. Actions to address the remaining requirements will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/05/2023	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 children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— develop positive relationships with them; engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care; help each child to understand how the child's privacy will be respected and the circumstances when it may have to be limited; help each child to prepare for any review of the child's relevant plans and to make the child's views, wishes and feelings known for the purposes of that review. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi))	3 May 2024

Specifically, the registered person should ensure regular consultation with children and, wherever appropriate, advocate on their behalf. The registered person should ensure that children's wishes and feelings inform how their care is planned. Children should be given the opportunity to have privacy in the community, where possible. If this not deemed safe or appropriate, then the rationale for this needs to be clearly recorded. The registered person should regularly review sanctions, their proportionality and effectiveness. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
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— understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f)(g)(ii)(h)) The registered person should ensure that monitoring systems are in place. These systems need to enable the effective review of the quality of care and safety of children.	3 May 2024

The registered person should complete an evaluative review to look at why staff may be being regularly assaulted by children. The registered person should implement new strategies to try and keep children and staff safer. The registered person should have measurable systems in place which can identify when children are making progress. When the registered person is not at work, management arrangements should still follow the necessary reporting processes to protect children. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
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 keep the behaviour management policy under review and, where appropriate, revise it. 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— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and 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	3 May 2024

has signed the record to confirm it is accurate. (Regulation 35 (a)(b)(2)(3)(a)(vii)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)) The registered person should complete an evaluative review of restraint practice. The registered person should support children to reflect on what makes them feel unsafe or anxious. Where children are injured while being restrained, the registered manager should complete a learning review to prevent this from happening again. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
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. A notification made under this regulation— must include details of— the matter; the other persons, bodies or organisations (if any) who or which have been notified;	3 May 2024

and any actions taken by the registered person as a result of the matter;

must be made or confirmed in writing.

(Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e) (5)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(b))

This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2700720

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Abbey Green Therapeutic Children's Services Ltd

Registered provider address: 51 Abbey Green Road, Leek ST13 8SA

Responsible individual: Michael Stanway

Registered manager: William Cunningham

Inspector

Corline Parker, Social Care Inspector

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