

2724911

Registered provider: AP Care Homes Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home. The home provides care for up to four children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted on 27 July 2023. There is no registered manager in post.

Due to a suspension notice being in place, there were no children living in the home at the time of the visit.

Inspection date: 3 January 2024

This monitoring visit

This home was judged inadequate at a full inspection on 16 and 17 November 2023. Ofsted found that children had suffered harm and, due to serious and widespread safeguarding failures, issued a notice suspending the registration of the home with immediate effect, from 17 November 2023 to 8 February 2024. The period of suspension requires the provider to cease operating until they can demonstrate that the risk of harm is eliminated.

This visit was carried out to monitor the suspension notice. Inspectors found that the provider has complied with the suspension notice. No children have lived at the home.

The new appointed manager has now started working in the home. The manager reported that he is developing an updated action plan to address the shortfalls previously identified.

The responsible individual in place at the last inspection has now left the organisation. A new responsible individual has recently been appointed. Safer

recruitment checks have not yet concluded. The director has confirmed that they will no longer be involved in the management of the home.

Staff currently working in the home have been subject to sufficient checks to determine their suitability to work with children. Additional staff are being recruited to secure a full staff team.

Staff have been provided with training to develop their skills and knowledge, including training around missing from home and protecting children on social media. Staff were positive about the training provided.

A case review was held following this visit. It was determined that the provider had taken sufficient steps to address the safeguarding failings that led to the suspension. The notice suspending the registration of the home was therefore lifted with immediate effect.

Ofsted will carry out a further visit in due course. This will include a review of the remaining requirements that were set at the last inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/11/2023	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 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— 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; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; 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; 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; (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(c))	2 January 2024

In particular, the registered person must ensure that children's risks are clearly identified and assessed. Also, that staff are provided with clear guidance and strategies to support them to reduce risks and take action to keep children safe.	
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; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; 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)(a)(c)(e)(e)(f)(g)(ii)(h)) The registered provider must ensure that children's complaints are acted on.	2 January 2024

The registered person must have effective oversight of the quality of care provided to children so that they can identify and address areas of concern.	
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— 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. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff understand and have sufficient oversight of children’s specific health needs. When advice is given in relation to meeting children’s needs, the registered provider must ensure that this advice is implemented.	2 January 2024
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff—	2 January 2024

meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans;

help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone;

communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding;

help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child's age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful;

help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship;

strive to gain each child's respect and trust;

understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children;

are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same;

de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children;

understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable; and

have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them; and

that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others.

(Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c)

(2)(a)(i)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)(xi)(xii)(xiii)(b))

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)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that safer recruitment checks are completed for all staff before they start working at the home.	2 January 2024
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 arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home;	2 January 2024

that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(i)(c)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that children have a positive experience of arriving at and moving on from the home. The registered person must ensure that relevant plans, including health plans, care plans and education, health and care plans, are followed.	
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— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff— protect and promote each child's welfare; 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)(a)(b)(ii)(iv)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that the care provided to children is personalised and meets children's individual needs and vulnerabilities.	2 January 2024
The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if— the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children. (Regulation 24 (1)(a))	2 January 2024

In particular, the registered person must ensure that CCTV is only used for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.	
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. (Regulation 16 (1)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that details of staff qualifications and experience are included in the statement of purpose.	2 January 2024
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. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b))	2 January 2024
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; ensure that the records are kept up to date; and retain the records for at least 15 years from the date of the last entry. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c)) In particular, the registered person must maintain a register of children.	2 January 2024
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— 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;	2 January 2024

there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(b)(c)(e))	
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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: 2724911

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: AP Care Homes Limited

Registered provider address: 307 Hale Road, Hale Barns, Altrincham WA15 8SS

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Catherine Fargin, Regulatory Inspection Manager
Emma Thornton, Social Care Inspector

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