

2724911

AP Care Homes Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home registered with Ofsted on 27 June 2023 and is privately owned. It provides care for up to four children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

There has been no registered manager in post since 13 September 2023.

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

Inspection date: 22 January 2025

This monitoring visit

The home was judged inadequate at the full inspection in November 2023. Ofsted found that children had suffered harm due to serious and widespread safeguarding failures.

Since the home was judged inadequate, nine monitoring visits have been carried out. The provider has failed to make and sustain the necessary improvements or act in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Since the home has been in operation, there have been seven responsible individuals in total and eight managers. Only one of these managers has registered with Ofsted. This continues to demonstrate ongoing instability in the leadership and management of the home. This does not provide children with a stable and safe environment.

Since the last monitoring visit, the manager, who started in post on 6 December 2024, informed Ofsted that she had made the decision to leave the organisation on 20 December 2024. There is currently no manager in post.

On 8 January 2025, the director submitted a new statement of purpose. This includes the details of a new proposed manager, the same responsible individual and two new staff members. However, during this visit, the director identified that the new manager named on this document, who was due to start on 27 January 2025, is no longer taking up this position. The director said that a further manager is due to start in position in February 2025. However, recruitment checks remain outstanding.

There have been further changes in the staff team. However, it was reported that recruitment checks remain ongoing. The director said that a new responsible individual has been identified to work in the home. However, their start date remains unclear. The previous responsible individual remains working for the provider as a consultant responsible for the training of staff. One staff member, who started in post in January 2025, has since left the organisation due to personal circumstances.

The director said that new staff have been accessing training courses, and a supervision session has taken place. However, no records could be accessed during this visit, including recruitment records, training records, care records and supervision records. The director, who was alone during the visit, said that she did not have access to the home's computerised filing system and recruitment files were inaccessible. This did not enable the regulator to review any progress made by the provider since the last visit or confirm that safer recruitment checks have been carried out regarding new staff.

The provider was unable to demonstrate that the outstanding requirements have been met. Requirements have been restated, and the notice restricting accommodation remains in place.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date

16/11/2023

Inspection type

Full

Inspection judgement

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 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; 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v)(vi)(vii)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children's risks are clearly assessed. Also, they should ensure that staff are provided with clear guidance and strategies to support them to understand and reduce risks. Leaders and managers must ensure that staff take effective action to keep children safe. This includes ensuring that allegations made by children are promptly reported to relevant agencies to safeguard children. Leaders and managers must ensure that staff understand their roles and responsibilities in protecting children. This requirement is restated.	25 February 2025

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 has sufficient staff to provide care for 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; 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)(d)(f)(h)) Specifically, leaders and managers must have effective oversight of the quality of care provided to children so that they can identify and address areas of concern. This includes oversight of staff practice, children's records and staff training and records. Leaders and managers must ensure that staff have the relevant skills and experience to safely care for children and be able to provide a consistent level of care. Leaders and managers must operate 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. This requirement is restated.	25 February 2024
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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 name of the child;

details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure;

the date, time and location of the use of the measure;

a description of the measure and its duration;

details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;

the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used;

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

25 February 2025

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. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (2) (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that: records of restraint are completed in line with regulation and are reviewed; any concerns about restraint practice or injuries sustained are identified and responded to swiftly. This requirement is restated.	
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 each child’s relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. They must ensure that they scrutinise available information before a child moves in so that they consider whether they can meet children’s needs effectively. Further to this, the registered provider must ensure that the home’s care plans reflect the information and outcomes from the child’s relevant plans and inform good care practices in the home. This requirement is restated.	25 February 2025

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— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans; 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. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ix)(x)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children’s social and emotional needs are understood and are met, in line with children’s relevant plans. This requirement is restated.	25 February 2025
The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children (“a quality of care review”) at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children’s home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it.	25 February 2025

The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b) (5))	
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This requirement is restated.	
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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, Social Care Inspector

Michelle Edge, Senior His Majesty's Inspector

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