

2759542

Registered provider: Accord Care Homes Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private provider. It is registered to provide care for up to three children with social and emotional needs.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living in the home.

The registered manager post is currently vacant. A manager has been recruited and has submitted her application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 7 January 2025

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was undertaken to review the restriction of accommodation notice, the action taken by the provider and the progress made since the last visit.

At the time of the monitoring visit, there was one child living in the home, and another child had recently moved out.

There have been changes to the senior leadership and management team. A new responsible individual has been appointed; they have submitted their application, and this is currently under review to determine their suitability.

Although there is no registered manager, there is an interim manager in post who has also submitted their application, and this is also currently under review to determine their suitability.

The new responsible individual has taken a proactive approach and has developed and applied new monitoring systems that have increased the level of oversight of the day-to-day running of the home. The additional oversight is also supporting the development of the interim manager; because of this, her confidence is growing.

Incidents in the home have reduced; however, there have been occasions when one child has been missing from home. Staff respond appropriately and in line with the child's risk management plans. Risk management plans are robust and are regularly reviewed by the manager, who also reviews all incidents with scrutiny that includes reflection on staff practice.

Training and development for staff has continued to improve. Since the last visit, staff have received additional face-to-face training. This includes training on safeguarding, missing from home, first aid, behaviour management and child exploitation. As a result of this, staff practice continues to develop, and they have been equipped with the necessary skills to fulfil their roles.

The physical environment for children continues to be safe and secure; there were no signs of any damage or hazards. However, the hall, stairs and landing walls were bare, the paintwork has begun to look tired and there were no curtains in the children's bedrooms.

A case review was held on 14 January 2025. It was the decision at the case review that the risk of harm no longer exists; therefore, the restriction of accommodation was lifted.

The requirements raised at the assurance inspection were not considered as part of this visit and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date

31/07/2024

Inspection type

Full

Inspection judgement

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 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; 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; 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)(iii)(v)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff follow the individual child's risk plans and children are provided with the opportunity to engage in return home interviews following episodes of being missing from home.	12 November 2024
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	19 December 2024

promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(e)(f)(h)) In particular, the registered provider must ensure that staff work as a team and provide consistent boundaries and expectations for the children, use effective monitoring systems to recognise any shortfalls in practice, and respond swiftly to address the shortfalls.	
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;	19 December 2024

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 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 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans; if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans; and seek to develop and maintain effective professional relationships with such persons, bodies or organisations as the registered person considers appropriate having regard to the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation. (Regulation 5 (a)(c)(d)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that leaders and managers advocate for children and challenge the decisions made by professionals if they are not in the best interests of children.	19 December 2024

The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children’s home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that they consider whether staff are able to meet the needs of the child, before they move in.	19 December 2024
In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably; ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home; In particular, the registered provider must ensure that the hallway, stairs and dining area are decorated to a standard where all wear and tear marks are removed. Additionally, children must also have curtains in their bedrooms.	14 February 2025

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: 2759542

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Accord Care Homes Limited

Registered provider address: 24 Greek Street, Stockport SK3 8AB

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Kimmy Feeley, Social Care Inspector

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