

2759542

Registered provider: Accord Care Homes Ltd

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 monitoring visit, one child was living in the home.

The registered manager post has been vacant since 11 July 2024.

Inspection date: 30 January 2025

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was carried out to consider concerns raised with the regulator about the home.

The responsible individual has been in post since 26 November 2024 and has applied to Ofsted to be registered. The application is currently being reviewed to determine their suitability.

An interim manager had been in post since 8 July 2024 and submitted their application to register. This was being reviewed to determine their suitability. However, the manager has since resigned with immediate effect.

Leaders and managers have not followed safer recruitment guidelines in relation to staff. One staff member did not have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate on file. Concerns in another staff member's DBS check were not properly explored or risk assessed. Therefore, safer recruitment checks have not been followed to ensure that only suitable adults care for children.

Managers and leaders do not ensure that staff have regular supervision. The quality of supervision is variable, and the development needs of staff are not always

addressed. Therefore, staff are not supported to improve their practice and ensure that they provide the best quality of care for children.

The responsible individual does not have effective systems for oversight of the home. They were not aware of the shortfalls in safer recruitment or concerns raised by staff and had therefore not taken action to address them.

Staff do not always manage safeguarding incidents appropriately. In one incident, medical advice relating to the child was not followed. The manager did not identify that appropriate action had not been taken, so no action was taken to address this with the staff member involved.

Leaders and managers take action to investigate allegations. However, they do not ensure that the support identified and training required was provided to staff. Following this failure, a second allegation was made about the same staff member. This resulted in missed opportunities to safeguard children and improve staff practice.

Managers and leaders carry out risk assessments following concerns. However, the risk assessments lack detail and are not always understood by staff. Therefore, they have limited effectiveness in reducing future risks.

Due to the significant safeguarding concerns, the home's registration was suspended by Ofsted following this visit.

The requirements made previously were not reviewed at this visit. Therefore, they are all restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/07/2024	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 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 ensure they 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. This requirement is restated.	31 March 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	31 March 2025

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. This requirement is restated.	
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;	31 March 2025

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)) This requirement is restated.	
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 leaders and managers advocate for children and challenge the decisions made by professionals if they are not in the best interests of children.	31 March 2025

This requirement is restated.	
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. This requirement is restated.	31 March 2025
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— 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. (Regulation 6(1)(a)(b)(2)(b)(vii)(c)(i)(ii))	31 March 2025

In particular, the registered provider must ensure that the hallway, stairs and dining area are redecorated to cover all marks of wear and tear.

Additionally, children's bedrooms must have window coverings on the windows.

This requirement is restated.

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 Ltd

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

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sarah Huntbatch, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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