

2778925

Registered provider: A Wilderness Way Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care for up to six children in up to four houses under a single registration. The home offers short-term intensive stays, typically lasting for 17 weeks, for children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home was registered in January 2024.

There is no registered manager in post. A new manager has been recruited and planned to register with Ofsted.

At the time of the inspection, there were no children living in the home.

Inspection date: 15 July 2025

This monitoring visit

This home was judged inadequate on 16 April 2025. Inspectors identified that managers had failed to adequately assess risk and poor staff practice had led to children being unnecessarily exposed to harm.

Following the inspection, compliance notices under Regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and Regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard) were issued. A restriction of accommodation notice was also issued.

A monitoring visit was carried out on 15 July 2025. The purpose of this visit was to review the action taken by the provider to meet the compliance notices and ensure that the conditions of the restriction notice were followed.

Following the inadequate judgement, the provider developed an action plan to address concerns in care practices and improve management oversight. An independent organisational survey was commissioned to obtain honest feedback

from staff on the home's operations, including management oversight and to identify areas of improvement.

The survey outcomes informed a discussion with the manager, focusing on the findings, which highlighted that staff had experienced limited opportunities for reflective practice, and that the absence of formal support structures had contributed to low morale and inconsistencies in safeguarding responses. Although the actions taken initially resulted in improvements in practice, they were not sustained due to ongoing shortfalls in the manager's oversight and their capacity to sustain change.

In response to these management gaps, the director, and another manager from within the organisation stepped in to stabilise the home. Their daily presence provided guidance to staff to ensure that safeguarding procedures were embedded into daily practice. A safety plan was developed alongside the staff team to support and protect the children in care, offering both structure and clarity.

Staff team meetings and supervision sessions were reintroduced to provide opportunities to reflect on practice, focus on safeguarding and discuss the implementation of age-appropriate boundaries and routines for children. Work was also undertaken to help the staff to develop their skills and confidence to manage children's complex behaviours.

Leaders responded appropriately and implemented measures to safeguard children from identified risks. The roles and responsibilities of staff and managers were reinforced, and each staff team was involved in the care planning process to reduce the risks specific to each child in their care. Staff received refresher training, and key information regarding children missing from care was regularly shared through team meetings, briefings, and daily updates.

These measures supported improvements in practice, with staff consistently following the procedures in place and managing missing-from-care incidents and allegations well. To further support the staff team, the provider ensured that additional staff were deployed during critical times of the day to assist one child and promote staff well-being. Mobile phones were provided to ensure that all staff had access to guidance and resources when out in the community.

Since the full inspection, the four children living in the homes were moved to new homes. Clear plans were implemented in collaboration with the placing local authorities, ensuring that each transition was managed safely and in line with each child's needs. This ensured that each child had a positive ending to their time living in the homes.

The provider has taken action to meet the compliance notices and abide with the conditions of the restriction notice. The provider has since made the decision to close the home. A cancellation of registration voluntary form was submitted.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/05/2025	Full	Inadequate
06/08/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/04/2024	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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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 arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and that each child's relevant plans are followed; that the child's placing authority is contacted, and a review of that child's relevant plans is requested, if— the registered person considers that the child is at risk of harm or has concerns that the care provided for the child is inadequate to meet the child's needs; the child is, or has been, persistently absent from the home without permission. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(c)(e)(i)(ii))	13 July 2025

In meeting the quality standards, the registered person 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; seek to secure the input and services required to meet each child’s needs. (Regulation 5 (a)(b))	13 July 2025
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children’s home’s premises; and any limitation placed on a child’s privacy or access to any area of the home’s premises— is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(ii)(iii)(iv))	13 July 2025
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;	13 July 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)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that all physical interventions and consequences are recorded in line with regulation 35.	
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))	13 July 2025

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: 2778925

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: A Wilderness Way Limited

Registered provider address: Stoneybeck, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8RP

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Post Vacant

Inspector

Michelle Edge, Senior His Majesty's Inspector

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