

2794413

Registered provider: Astar Care Group Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is one of several homes run by a private provider. It provides care for one child who may have emotional and social difficulties. This is the first inspection of the home since it was registered with Ofsted in November 2024.

A suitably qualified and experienced registered manager has been in post since November 2024.

At the time of the inspection, there was one child living in the home.

Inspection dates: 23 and 24 April 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: not previously inspected

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child has their care needs met. Staff tailor care to the specific needs of the child. This individualised approach ensures that the child receives appropriate support, which fosters their well-being and development.

The child attends education. Staff support the child to access learning, and evidence progress from the child's starting points. This is positive, as the child had a period of absence from learning. The focus on education highlights the commitment to improving the child's life chances and academic outcomes.

Staff support the child to spend time with family and friends, enabling them to see those most important to them. Staff cultivate positive communication with family members and external agencies, prioritising the best interests of the child and their family networks.

The child has their health needs met. Staff support them to register with local health services and to attend appointments. This has resulted in the child receiving specialist support for specific health needs.

Staff understand the needs of the child. This means the child experiences a responsive, nurtured and supportive environment.

Staff support the child to be independent. Staff promote activities that enable the child to develop key life skills and give them guidance to empower them. This equips the child with greater autonomy and self-sufficiency.

The home is generally in good condition and is clean, homely and comfortable. However, the manager needs to ensure that damage is repaired promptly.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

The child feels safe and secure. Staff understand risk and respond promptly to incidents. They follow these up with the child to help them develop an understanding of how to keep safe, resulting in a reduction in unsafe risk.

Staff provide clear routines and boundaries. This enables the child to experience reward and consequence, which empowers them to take responsibility for their behaviours.

Appropriate risks are encouraged through independence and activities are risk assessed. Key-worker sessions aid children to learn from incidents that have not gone to plan.

Staff are well trained to de-escalate incidents, meaning the child has not experienced physical restraint.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has a clear vision for the development of staff and the home. This is achieved through planning that considers environmental factors, along with staff, and how these will impact the experiences of children.

Staff said that the manager is supportive and experienced. This helps staff to develop knowledge and skills in their care of the child. This also enables staff to adjust to changes in the home environment and remain stable in their own well-being.

The views of the child are valued and integrated into various aspects of the home, including planning, activities and daily life.

The manager has a good relationship with professionals and family. This is achieved through regular communication on the progress of the child, alongside strong advocacy on behalf of the child and their needs.

Some staff require further development in understanding and managing complex behaviours. The manager provides additional support and training.

Staff receive regular supervision. Staff are supported in expressing their views and say that these are taken seriously. The manager has made staffing decisions to address their well-being following incidents in the home. The manager aims to support staff to manage complex situations with confidence and to nurture an understanding of how best to respond to challenges.

Staff are safely recruited and receive a comprehensive induction. This requires them to complete mandatory training and maintain their professional development.

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 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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that the home environment is homely, clean and well cared for and that any damage is repaired as quickly as possible.	28 June 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff have the skills to respond to each child's individual behaviour. Where necessary, they should manage conflict, maintain constructive dialogues and react appropriately if challenged by a child in their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 39, paragraph 8.14)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2794413

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Astar Care Group Ltd

Registered provider address: 5a Warbreck Avenue, Liverpool L9 4RL

Responsible individual: Alexander Dingle

Registered manager: Joanne Cronin

Inspector

Paul McKay-Smith, Social Care Inspector

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