

2800238

Registered provider: Avellino Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home registered with Ofsted in October 2024 and is privately operated. It is a multi-building home consisting of four properties, and it provides care for up to four children with learning disabilities.

The registered manager left her position in March 2025, and the manager's post is currently vacant.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home. at the time of the inspection and spent time with the inspector.

This is the home's first inspection since being registered in October 2024.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 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's move into the home was well planned, with staff spending time with them and getting to know them before they moved in. This included staff spending two weeks in the local area so that they could maximise their time with the child.

At the time of the inspection, the provider had given 28 days' notice to end the placement due to an increase in the severity of injuries to the staff team caused by the child. The provider is working with the placing authority to ensure that an appropriate placement is identified. They are committed to helping the child adjust to a new environment.

Staff follow the child's individualised care plans, which include essential details on how to provide personal care. They understand the child's methods of communication. They are skilled in using appropriate communication aids to communicate with the child. The child has made progress with their vocalisations and is beginning to sound out some words.

The child's health has improved significantly. The child has gained weight and is receiving support for maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle. This includes using the swing and trampoline in the garden and going on daily nature walks. This has had a positive impact on the child's daily routine and general well-being.

Staff help the child to express their wishes and feelings regarding food menus and social and leisure activities. They work with the child to prepare them for new events, such as meeting others or going to new places. These direct work sessions are recorded as part of the child's care planning.

The child is not currently attending school; however, a home tutor has been arranged to assist them. Staff continue to support the child with their education, focusing on colours, numbers, vocalisation, animal knowledge, and regularly reading to them. The management team has been working closely with professionals to prioritise the child's education. However, due to the child's imminent move from the home, efforts to find a local school have ceased.

Before moving to the home, the child was socially isolated and was not being supported to spend time outside of where they lived. The child now enjoys daily time out in the community and has visited zoos, farms and the library. Staff have also supported the child in attending healthcare appointments. As a result, the child is now having positive experiences in the wider community.

The houses are homely, comfortable and well maintained. The child is receiving carefully planned care in an environment that is designed to meet their specific needs and reflects their interests and identity. There are colourful displays on the walls, along with photos of the child and their family. This helps the child to experience a sense of belonging.

Following the child's arrival, adaptations were made to the bathroom to make it more accessible for the child. The child's previous placement notice period was ending, so the bathroom was not changed before the child moved in.

Staff support the child in maintaining positive relationships with their family. The home is a significant distance from the child's family, resulting in the child spending less time with them. However, the provider has made every effort to support these relationships and has been creative in their suggestions to ensure that the child sees their family. Staff value parents' involvement in helping the child in the home, and they provide daily updates via telephone in relation to the child's health and general well-being. A parent described how the staff go 'above and beyond' in caring for their child.

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

The child's care plans and risk assessments are comprehensive. They are kept up to date and are in line with the local authority's plans. The child's personalised behaviour management plans help staff understand triggers for behaviours and give them strategies to manage situations. This has prevented some of the child's unwanted behaviours from escalating. Staff have access to protective clothing to keep themselves safe when caring for the child; however, the child has been able to remove items of clothing, such as gloves, causing injury to staff

Staff are resilient and child focused. For example, there have been incidents when staff have been unable to prevent serious injuries to themselves or others. This has not affected the consistency and good-quality care provided to the child.

Physical intervention is only used as a last resort after staff have exhausted all de-escalation techniques. The records of incidents are detailed, and there is comprehensive oversight by the management team. Staff debriefs are detailed, and the child's views are identified by observations of the child following the incident, as the child is non-speaking. Good oversight of these incidents helps ensure that practice is appropriate and any learning taken from them can be identified and used to make improvements to the care being provided to the child.

Leaders manage concerns about staff conduct well. Appropriate action is taken, and full investigations are carried out by an independent person. This ensures that scrutiny in relation to staff practice is fair and balanced.

Recruitment practices are safe. The management team follows safer recruitment processes carefully, which ensures that staff are suitable to work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager resigned in March 2025. The deputy manager, with support from the responsible individual, currently manages the home.

Staff are positive about working in the home. They feel supported by the interim manager and responsible individual and say that their views are valued and respected. Staff communicate effectively with one another and are enthusiastic about offering consistent, good-quality care to the child in their care.

The management team ensures the safe recruitment and induction of staff. Changes are being made to improve the induction process following consultation with staff. The management team is focused on the staff's learning and development. Staff receive a wide range of training, including specialised courses to meet the child's individual needs.

On one occasion, leaders and managers did not ensure that there were adequately trained staff on shift overnight to administer 'as required' medication to the child. This resulted in the on-call manager attending the home to carry out this task. As a result, the child had to wait to receive medication they needed, leading to them being unsettled.

Team meetings are child focused and supportive. The staff value the attendance of senior managers at these meetings so that the staff team's views can be heard. Prompt action is taken when requests or suggestions are made to improve the service. A clinical psychologist assists the team in supporting the child. Following incidents where staff have sustained injuries, there is also a strong emphasis on their well-being.

The staff and management team have established good working relationships with a range of agencies and external professionals who are involved in the child's care. Staff work closely with parents, social workers and other professionals. This ensures that appropriate support is in place to encourage the child's progress and maximise their potential.

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 leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(c)) In particular, ensure that there are adequate staff on shift who are trained to administer medication.	9 May 2025

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: 2800238

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Avellino Care Ltd

Responsible individual: Isobel Green

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Kate Savage, Social Care Inspector

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