

SC061439

Registered provider: Young Foundations Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for up to five children who may have social and emotional difficulties. They may also have learning disabilities or mental health disorders.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2024. The responsible individual's post has been vacant since November 2024.

Inspection date: 23 December 2024

Date of last inspection: 16 July 2024

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children say they feel safe and have positive relationships with the staff. Children like living at the home and feel listened to and supported.

The home environment is comfortable for the children. The communal areas are clean, welcoming and decorated ready for Christmas. The children's bedrooms are personalised and well furnished.

When children are welcomed to the home, they experience well-planned introductions. Children receive visits from the manager and staff and have the choice to visit the home, stay for meals and choose their bedroom. One child chose to move sooner than planned, opting to stay at the home during their second visit.

The plans agreed with the placing authority are in date and reflect the most recent reviews. The information is transferred into the home's own care plans and assessments. This provides staff with clear information to enable them to meet the children's needs.

Not all children attend education on a regular basis. Staff arranged tutoring for one child. However, this has not been successful in motivating the child to engage in learning. Another child has refused to attend their current school. The manager has raised her concerns with the placing authority and virtual school but has not escalated this when no resolution was received. This has caused the issue to drift, and neither child is attending education.

When children are missing from home, staff do not always follow their own procedures. Staff did not inform the local authority when a child was reported as missing from home. When children are reported as missing to the police, the Philomena Protocol states that the local authority must be informed. However, staff did not complete this during a missing-from-home episode where there were increased concerns about a child's vulnerability. This does not provide assurances that staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

An agency staff member fell asleep while on duty. This allowed a child to leave the home undetected. Consequently, the child was missing through the night without staff being aware until they returned the next morning. This places children at risk of harm.

Staff restrained a child in the community for the purpose of getting them into a car. This decision was made by staff because of the child's behaviour in a public place. This practice does not ensure that the use of restraint is necessary or proportionate to safeguard children and is not in line with the home's policy.

The supervision of staff is inconsistent. New employees are not receiving regular supervision in line with the home's policy. The supervision of staff is not effective in addressing staff conduct or performance issues. Important conversations are not recorded, and practice issues persist. Furthermore, the manager is not receiving appropriate supervision or a suitable induction into their role.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/11/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/10/2022	Full	Good
14/06/2022	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 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— 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; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and 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)(iii)(v)(vi)(b))	3 February 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 promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose;	3 February 2025

ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(e)(h))	
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; and help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii)(x))	3 February 2025
Restraint in relation to a child is only permitted for the purpose of preventing— injury to any person (including the child); serious damage to the property of any person (including the child). Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b) (2))	3 February 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional, which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)
- The registered person should ensure that managers have successfully completed a relevant induction for the role in which they are employed. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.21)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC061439

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Young Foundations Limited

Registered provider address: Alexander House, Highfield Park, Llandrynog,
Denbighshire, Wales LL16 4LU

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Rebecca Howgate

Inspector

Lee Riley, Social Care Inspector

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