

SC061678

Care Assist Children's Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private provider. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children. At the time of the inspection, there was one child living in the home.

The registered manager post is vacant. There is an interim manager in post who has been managing the home since December 2021.

Inspection date: 24 February 2022

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out to monitor the restriction notice which was issued on 14 January 2022.

Since the last visit, the manager has made a change to his working hours so that they now have more dedicated management hours in the home. The manager is still completing some shifts. However, the majority of his time now is now spent on management tasks. The manager reports that this change has been positive and well received by the staff team, whose members feel they are benefiting from more management support.

The development of effective management monitoring systems is ongoing. Although there is increased management oversight of significant events, shortfalls remain in the way in which the manager evaluates information and uses this to drive improvements in the quality of care for children. For example, a child expressed difficulties in falling asleep. The manager challenged staff for inappropriately suggesting medication to the child. However, they did not then detail what support the child should be given. The child's health information was not updated to reflect

their struggles with sleeping and staff were not informed about what actions should be taken to support the child going forward.

Since the last visit, the manager has devised a new risk assessment for children. This has not yet been implemented. Therefore, the shortfalls identified during the previous inspection remain.

The manager advised that there have been changes to the staff team. Recruitment is ongoing. However, there are currently only two permanent full-time members of staff. The home does not use agency staff but does rely on part time staff to complete full-time hours. As the manager has reduced the number of shifts that they work, other staff members have increased overtime shifts. On some weeks, staff are working three or four twenty-four-hour shifts.

The continued shortfalls in risk assessments and management monitoring arrangements were discussed at a case review along with the staff shortages. It was the decision of the case review that the notice restricting accommodation should remain in place.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/12/2021	Full	Inadequate
24/08/2021	Full	Inadequate
12/12/2019	Full	Good
16/01/2019	Full	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, 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 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 arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority; and that each child's relevant plans are followed (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(ii)(iii)(c))	28 March 2022
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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))	28 March 2022

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 their full potential; and

promotes their welfare.

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—

use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home.

(Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))

28 March 2022

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: SC061678

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Care Assist Children's Services Limited

Registered provider address: 1 High Barn, Back Lane, Aughton, ORMSKIRK,
Lancashire L39 6SX

Responsible individual: Peter Jones

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Emma Thornton, Social Care Inspector

Julia Toller, Social Care Regulatory Inspection Manager

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