

SC062013

Registered provider: After Care NW Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to three children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 1 April 2022.

Inspection date: 30 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 11 August 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

The home now has a new manager who has been acting manager since the last inspection and registered with Ofsted on 1 April 2022. The manager has a good understanding of significant events in the children's lives. She provides clear direction to the adults caring for the children to maximise their progress and keep them safe.

There has been a focus on improving practice and management systems, which has resulted in previous inspection requirements being met. However, the manager has not completed a review of the quality of care. The absence of this review limits the opportunities for children and people who are important to them to provide feedback about the care provided. It also prevents the manager from creating a forward-thinking vision for children's care.

The adults caring for children are equipped with bespoke knowledge to support the children's individual needs. Children's care has now been individualised because of training and they are now thriving.

When a safeguarding concern arises, the manager and adults directly caring for children follow child-protection procedures. Multi-agency safety plans are put in place to keep children safe, and they are regularly reviewed. However, children are not provided with the opportunity to develop their knowledge about complex safeguarding issues. This shortfall limits children's development of their own safety measures against risks in society.

Children now have clear written plans in place. The plans bring children to life and have specific and measurable goals to help children achieve. As a result of this shift in practice, children have developed new life skills, they are achieving in education, and they have experienced new opportunities.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out of the home. During this inspection, the manager and adults who directly cared for the child were reflective about this event. However, there has been no formal opportunity for everyone to reflect and learn. This reduces the opportunity for the team to improve its practice in caring for children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/08/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/03/2020	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/08/2018	Full	Good
27/06/2017	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, 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— help each child to understand how to keep safe. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(ii)) This relates to ensuring that children receive education about complex safeguarding risks.	30 April 2022
The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. After completing a quality-of-care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality-of-care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality-of-care review ("the quality-of-care review report").	30 April 2022

The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality-of-care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality-of-care review is completed; and make a copy of the quality-of-care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home. The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))	
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Recommendation

- The registered person should be skilled in anticipating difficulties and reviewing incidents, such as learning from disruptions. They are responsible for proactively implementing lessons learned and sustaining good practice. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 55, paragraph 10.24)

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: SC062013

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: After Care NW Limited

Registered provider address: 45 Kensington Road, Southport, Lancashire PR9 0RT

Responsible individual: Timothy Blundell

Registered manager: Rosie Binfield

Inspector

Carly Quinn, Social Care Inspector

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