

SC399586

Registered provider: First 4 Care Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is run by a private provider. It registered with Ofsted in 2010 and can provide care and support to up to two children with learning disabilities and/or social or emotional difficulties.

No children were living at the home at the time of this inspection. This assurance inspection was completed to check whether the home is ready for children to move in.

The home has a registered manager, who registered with Ofsted in January 2024.

Inspection date: 24 September 2024

Date of last inspection: 23 May 2022

Judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:.

A restriction of accommodation notice was issued on 26 May 2022 until 11 August 2022 inclusively.

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, 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

At this assurance inspection, we did not identify any serious or widespread concerns about the care or protection of children.

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 23 May 2022. During this inspection, the inspectors found significant breaches in regulations related to the safety and protection of children, the leadership and management arrangements, the fitness of the registered provider, and the employment of staff. As a result, four compliance notices were issued.

A monitoring visit took place on 5 July 2022, and three of the four compliance notices were reissued. A further monitoring visit was carried out on 9 August 2022, and all compliance notices were evidenced as met.

On 5 December 2023, a monitoring visit took place and concluded the home was ready for children to move into. At this time, the newly appointed manager was not registered with Ofsted.

Since the most recent monitoring visit, further extensive work and changes have been completed to the home. Health and safety checks have been completed, and the home has been redecorated and updated to provide a safe living environment which is warm and welcoming for any child to move into.

The fire risk assessment is current. However, not all recommendations have been followed. Some of the recommendations have been challenged by the manager to ensure that the home remains warm and welcoming. Clear guidance is set out in the assessment, and managers need to be confident that staff are following the assessments and policy for the home to support safety.

Managers have recruited enough staff to provide care for one child in the home. Robust recruitment checks have been followed to reduce potential risk to any child. The staff have a comprehensive training offer to complete training and shadowing opportunities to gain knowledge and skills to provide care for children. Not all training has been completed by staff which means there could be some gaps in staff knowledge and the ability to meet the needs of some children. The manager has identified this and has plans in place to address it.

The manager is aware of the lack of diversity in the staff team and is considering ways to address this and promote children receiving a wide range of positive care experiences.

The manager has ensured that all documents for the home have been reviewed and remain current. There is an updated statement of purpose and a children's guide. This provides information about the ethos and care provided in the home and

provides children with visual, clear and well-presented information to prepare them for living in the home.

The manager has systems in place to review and monitor children's care. Documents to complete quality assurance and supervision of staff are completed and ready for use.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
10/08/2021	Full	Good
26/02/2020	Full	Good
14/08/2018	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should support staff to be ambitious for every child in the home and to gain skills and experience that enable them to actively support each child to achieve their potential. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', paragraph 10.5, page 52')
- The registered person should seek to establish a diverse staff team with a range of interests, skills and experiences. They should lead staff to share those interests, skills and experiences with children to enrich the children's lives. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', paragraph 10.6, page 52')
- The registered person is responsible for ensuring that all staff consistently follow the home's policies and procedures for the benefit of the children in the home's care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', paragraph 10.20, page 54')

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC399586

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: First 4 Care Ltd

Registered provider address: 16 St. Wilfrids Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster DN4 6AA

Responsible individual: Frances Russell

Registered manager: Carrie Moores

Inspector

Kate Jackson, Social Care Inspector

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