

1250287

Acorn Children's Home (Branston) Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care for up to four children who have moved following a breakdown in either their fostering or residential placement or who are required to live away from home.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in December 2019 and holds a level 5 qualification in leadership and management.

Inspection date: 20 January 2020

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the last full inspection. Following the inspection, a suspension of registration notice was issued. This expired on 12 December 2019. The provider made the decision to not move in any new children to the home after the suspension expired and has remained closed.

The purpose of this inspection was to review the provider's readiness to re-open the home. The provider has now ensured that the home has sufficient staff and that all staff have received appropriate training. New staff have mainly been safely recruited. However, the level of scrutiny in following up gaps in employment still needs to improve. As a result of having sufficient staff, the home is now ready to admit children.

Previous requirements could not be fully assessed during this visit. These will be reconsidered at a future inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/08/2019	Full	Inadequate
14/05/2019	Full	Inadequate
17/07/2018	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
<p>In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c))</p>	01/04/2020
<p>The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who develop positive relationships with them; engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff ensure that each child is enabled to provide feedback to, and raise issues with, a relevant person about the support and services that the child receives. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)(i))</p>	01/04/2020
<p>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff 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. (Regulation 8 (1)(2)(a)(viii))</p>	01/04/2020
<p>The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on an understanding about acceptable behaviour.</p>	01/04/2020

<p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff—</p> <p>meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans;</p> <p>help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child’s age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful. (Regulation 11 (1)(b)(2)(a) (i)(vi))</p>	
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff—</p> <p>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;</p> <p>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child’s welfare; and</p> <p>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home’s child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)(iii) (vi)(vii))</p>	01/04/2020
<p>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.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff—</p> <p>have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;</p> <p>ensure that the home’s workforce provides continuity of care;</p>	01/04/2020

<p>understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; and</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(c)(e)(f)(h))</p>	
<p>The registered person must maintain records ('case records') for each child. Case records must be kept in a secure place after the child has ceased to be accommodated in the home. (Regulation 36 (1)(2)(d))</p>	<p>01/04/2020</p>

Recommendations

- As set out in Regulations 31–33, the registered person is responsible for maintaining good employment practice. They must ensure that recruitment, supervision and performance management of staff safeguard children and minimise potential risks to them. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

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: 1250287

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Acorn Children's Home (Branston) Limited

Registered provider address: Claremont House, 223 Branston Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3BT

Responsible individual: Farzana Khan

Registered manager: Gerald Gordon

Inspector

Louise Battersby, social care inspector

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