

1247386

Carlisle Mencap Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered by a charitable organisation to provide care and accommodation under short-break arrangements for up to six children with learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities.

The registered manager is a qualified social worker. He has worked in the home for many years and has been registered since January 2017, following the organisation taking over the home's management. Before this, he was also the registered manager for this former local authority run home.

Inspection date: 25 November 2020

This monitoring visit

This visit was planned in response to the organisation's request to Ofsted to reopen the home following a period of closure from May 2020 due to a serious safeguarding incident which occurred on 25 April 2020. On this occasion, a child became submerged in a bath, having been left unsupervised. This resulted in him requiring hospitalisation where he spent some time in a coma before recovering.

The home appropriately alerted all relevant parties immediately. Upon notification, the local authority suspended its commission with the service so that the incident could be fully investigated, and take any necessary action. Ofsted, having consulted with the local authority and the charitable organisation, imposed a condition whereby the charitable organisation had to notify Ofsted three months before admitting any children. This was to ensure that confidence was restored in the home's safeguarding arrangements before any children started to access the service again.

Prior to this incident, a police investigation relating to an unexplained injury to another child was also ongoing. Both these matters have now been fully investigated and concluded with no further action being taken by the police.

The organisation had also closed the home briefly in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. During this time, effective measures were put in place to manage infection control, to ensure that at least some children could still access the service safely. These measures have been consistently reviewed during this period of closure. This ensures that managers and staff are working in accordance with the latest government health guidance to promote their own safety as well as that of others coming into the home.

Staff who have not been required to shield and isolate themselves during lockdown periods have remained actively involved at the home. They have worked together to review internal policies, procedures and processes to ensure that staff practice is not only safe but promotes optimum standards of care for children who enjoy short breaks.

Managers and staff have also used this period of closure as an opportunity to upgrade and refurbish the property, and to ensure that all staff have undertaken necessary and refresher training relevant to the children they care for. This has included safeguarding children training as well as child-specific care needs, such as epilepsy awareness, emergency invasive medication administration, and safety in moving and handling children.

Managers are still negotiating disciplinary hearings for two staff members who continue to be suspended following investigation. Managers plan to share outcomes from these disciplinary proceedings with both the local authority and Ofsted in due course.

Throughout this period, despite the home not being open to children, independent external monitoring arrangements have been maintained, albeit that they have been carried out remotely by the home's designated visitor. This has provided useful scrutiny of the developments that have taken place over this time and promoted transparency with Ofsted.

Ofsted was recently notified of the registered manager's absence from the home due to illness. Due to the uncertainty of his return date, the responsible individual has appointed the home's deputy manager to manage the home during his absence. The deputy manager has the appropriate knowledge, qualifications and experience to fulfil this interim position having worked in the home for many years with the registered manager.

During this visit, requirements resulting from the home's previous inspection were also reviewed. These have all been met; some through staff training events and others through review and revision of procedures, processes and recording practices.

Ofsted has made a further requirement as a result of this visit. This recognises that despite staff having identified risks associated with a child's bathing routine, and

plans being made to mitigate such risks, a child was not adequately protected from significant harm due adult supervision not being sufficient while he was bathing.

Following this visit, Ofsted has decided to remove the notice period for admissions that was added to the home's conditions of registration in May 2020.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/12/2019	Full	Good
29/01/2019	Full	Good
01/02/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
18/07/2017	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, 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>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—</p> <p>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>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly.</p> <p>(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v)(vii)(b)(e))</p>	4 January 2021

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: 1247386

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Carlisle Mencap Limited

Registered provider address: Carlisle Mencap Limited, Unit J3, Duchess Avenue, Kingmoor Park North, Carlisle CA6 4SN

Responsible individual: Sheila Gregory

Registered manager: Frank Tripp

Inspector

Gillian Walters, Social Care Inspector

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