

# 1271213

## Care 4 Children Residential Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

### Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five children or young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The registered manager left the setting in September 2020, following the assurance visit.

**Inspection date:** 19 January 2021

### This monitoring visit

During an assurance visit on 23 and 24 September 2020, inspectors identified a number of significant shortfalls in safeguarding practices and procedures within the home.

Leaders, managers and staff did not respond appropriately to incidents that required safeguarding action to be taken and they did not implement effective strategies to safeguard and protect the children living in the home. In addition, poor risk-management, a lack of appropriate boundaries and structures, and unsafe practice placed the children living in the home at risk of harm. During the assurance visit, staff raised concerns about poor safeguarding practice in the home and about the practice of the registered manager. Staff had not reported these concerns to anyone else in the organisation and they had not followed procedures to escalate these serious concerns. This left children at risk of harm. Following the assurance visit, an emergency suspension notice was served.

Monitoring visits were carried out on 3 November 2020 and 10 December 2020.

During the monitoring visit carried out on 10 December 2020, the provider failed to demonstrate that sufficient action had been taken to ensure that children will be kept safe. This was despite significant safeguarding concerns being raised at the

assurance visit and subsequent monitoring visit around staff practice and ineffective whistle-blowing procedures. A further suspension notice was issued.

At this visit, which took place on 19 January 2021, the inspector found that the provider had complied with the emergency suspension notice and there are no children living in the home.

The home has remained closed and the staff team has been redeployed across the organisation. There are no plans for the staff team to return to the setting when it is back in operation.

The whistle-blowing policy was reviewed and amended. This was shared across the organisation with all staff. Staff have received information and training about the policy and procedures with regards to whistleblowing. The updated policy will encourage a safe working environment and an open culture where staff will feel able to speak up and promote a transparent dialogue with the management team if concerns arise. Staff said, 'What is good about the new policy, is that this is now a much clearer process. We can raise and discuss our concerns openly and understand that the manager will look at it even if no further action is needed.'

The registered manager left the setting in September 2020, following the assurance visit. There are no plans for the home to reopen at this current time. The date proposed for reopening is April 2021. This will enable the organisation to safely recruit a new manager into the vacant post and recruit and train the new staff team.

Requirements set previously were not considered as part of this visit and will be reviewed at the next inspection visit. There were no new recommendations or requirements set from this visit.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/05/2019	Full	Good
15/01/2019	Full	Good

## **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:** 1271213

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Care 4 Children Residential Services Limited

**Registered provider address:** 1 Stuart Road, Bredbury Park Industrial Estate, Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2SR

**Responsible individual:** Amy Moulton

**Registered manager:** Louise Arrowsmith

## **Inspector**

Michelle Edge, Social Care Regulatory Inspection Manager

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