

1234317

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 owned and operated by a private company and offers short- to medium-term placements for up to six children and young people aged from 11 to 17 years. The children and young people may have experienced trauma and exploitation, and may also have emotional, social and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager is newly appointed to the home and has yet to apply to Ofsted to become the registered manager.

Inspection date: 2 February 2021

This monitoring visit

An assurance visit was completed at the home in September 2020. The last full inspection of the home was completed in February 2020.

This visit was undertaken to address specific concerns received by Ofsted from notifications submitted by the registered manager. During the visit, the inspector focused on episodes of children going missing from the home, and how the provider assesses that children are suitably matched to live together.

Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the visit was undertaken remotely with systems in place to gather the information required. At the time of the visit, there were two children in residence.

Children are well supported and respected by staff. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected their day-to-day experiences, though staff have continued to engage them in constructive and new activities. For example, the children are supported to learn new skills, such as tidying their bedrooms and learning how to cook their favourite meals.

One child spoken to said, 'I'm learning how to cook, one of the staff members is also teaching me how to keep fit with boxing. Staff respect you, I'm happy here.' The child rated the support from the staff team as '10 out of 10'.

Managers challenge placing authorities if they perceive that other professionals are not working in the child's best interests. For example, the manager recently escalated concerns with a placing authority when he discovered that important information about risk was not shared with him or his staff team before a child was admitted to the home. Immediate action was taken to ensure that the child received care in accordance with relevant plans.

Incidents of the children going missing from home are managed well. Staff have gone above and beyond when responding to these incidents. For example, they search for children in their home town, which at times is a considerable distance away. The manager and the staff team work effectively with social workers and the police to reduce the risk of children going missing from care.

The staff continue to receive training during the pandemic. Training completed includes child exploitation, knife crime, bullying, and managing challenging behaviour. This supports the staff's understanding of their responsibility to keep children safe.

The manager has improved the quality of detail in the children's risk assessments. However, in one child's missing-from-care protocol, there was information recorded that was not about that child. This could potentially result in inconsistencies in staff practice.

Planning for children referred to the home is well thought out. The manager, with support from the responsible individual and the clinical team, assesses the suitability of referrals before agreeing admission. However, the impact risk assessments lack evaluation and strategies about how the children can live together safely. This could result in children being at risk of harm.

The two requirements and one recommendation made at the previous inspection were not reviewed during this visit. These will be carried forward to the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/02/2020	Full	Inadequate
03/05/2018	Full	Good
24/01/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
10/10/2017	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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))</p> <p>This particularly refers to ensuring that matching risk assessments for children fully evaluate all risks when matching new children to those already living at the home. Also, individual risk assessments for children must not have details duplicated from another child's risk assessment.</p>	28 February 2021
<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—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that the home's approach and ethos are embedded within the staff team.</p>	28 February 2021

<p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(c))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that all staff have had an appraisal of their performance conducted and recorded.</p>	<p>28 February 2021</p>
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Recommendations

- The registered person should meet children's basic day-to-day needs and physical necessities. Staff should seek to meet the child's basic needs in the way that a good parent would, recognising that many children in residential care have experienced environments where these needs have not been consistently met. Doing so is an important aspect of demonstrating that the staff care for the child and value them as an individual. This particularly refers to ensuring that the décor of the home is kept to a high standard with any minor repairs being completed in a timely manner. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standard', page 15, paragraph 3.7)

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: 1234317

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Care 4 Children Residential Services Limited

Registered provider address: Care 4 Children, 1 Stuart Road, Bredbury Park Industrial Estate, Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2SR

Responsible individual: Amy Moulton

Registered manager: Tayub Ahmed

Inspector

Aaron Mcloughlin, Social Care Inspector

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