

1240753

Care 4 Children Holdco Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in June 2020.

Inspection date: 3 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was arranged due to an escalation in safeguarding notifications. This was in relation to safeguarding practice within the home.

Ofsted found shortfalls in safeguarding practice. The registered manager did not follow safeguarding procedures when a child made an allegation against a member of staff or notify all relevant professionals in a timely manner. The failure to present a strong and effective management response, with suitable guidance for staff, is a barrier in managing and reducing significant risks.

Furthermore, further shortfalls were identified in relation to staff speaking to children about incidents within the home. This means that there are missed opportunities for staff to act on any potential safeguarding information. The responsible individual provided an action plan that identified the same safeguarding concerns, but explained that she had not yet had the opportunity to address the concerns.

The inspectors found shortfalls in some risk assessments and risk management plans. Children's risk assessments are not always updated. This means that staff do not have access to the most up-to-date information in respect of children. Furthermore, staff do not consistently follow children's risk management plans, for example when staff suspect that children are under the influence of substances.

Staff spoken to as part of the visit understood the children's current risks. However, staff report different strategies in relation to how they manage children's behaviour.

This means that children are not always provided with a consistent message, for example in relation to supervising children when they access the internet.

The conditions in children's bedrooms are poor. There are broken window blinds and broken furniture in children's bedrooms. Staff told inspectors that the damage had been reported to the provider's maintenance service. However, immediate action had not been taken to ensure that the environment is safe for children. The provider took action to address this during the visit.

There are gaps in the monitoring and review systems, which reduces the true analysis and evaluation of the care provided to children and how this impacts on outcomes for children. This includes an oversight of safeguarding incidents, physical intervention records and risk management plans. This is necessary to ensure that the manager can make improvements in the care that children receive. The registered manager accepted the shortfalls identified.

Recording within the home needs to improve to ensure that all relevant details are recorded in children's case records. For example, staff need to ensure that all records are accurate and include all actions taken.

The registered manager has not submitted an updated statement of purpose to Ofsted as per regulation. This is necessary to ensure that Ofsted has the most up-to-date information about the children's home.

Children's social workers are generally positive about the progress that children have made. This is in relation to children's education and a reduction in missing-from-home incidents. However, some social workers commented that on occasions there has been a delay in the manager and staff sharing safeguarding information in a timely way. This can cause unnecessary delays in the safeguarding process.

The inspectors spoke to children during this visit. The children provided generally positive feedback about the home and the care that they receive. One child said that it was better than his previous home. Another child said that he gave the home 8 marks out of 10 (with 10 being the best).

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/06/2019	Full	Good
12/06/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/05/2017	Full	Good
02/03/2017	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>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and</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 premises used for the purpose of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(b)(d))</p> <p>In particular the registered manager needs to ensure that he acts on safeguarding information and shares this information with the relevant professionals without delay.</p>	<p>27 April 2021</p>

<p>The manager needs to ensure that children’s risk assessments are up to date and include all known risks, with strategies included to reduce risk.</p> <p>The furniture in children’s bedrooms needs to be repaired without any further delay.</p>	
<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;</p> <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 understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home;</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home.</p> <p>(Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(f)(h))</p> <p>This is particularly in relation to the registered manager’s oversight and evaluation of children’s plans and any incidents within the home. Furthermore, the manager needs to ensure that he reviews and evaluates children’s plans to identify any triggers/patterns to children’s behaviour.</p>	<p>27 April 2021</p>
<p>The registered person must compile in relation to the home a statement (“the statement of purpose”) which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1.</p> <p>The registered person must</p> <p>Keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and</p> <p>Notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision.</p>	<p>27 April 2021</p>

<p>(Regulation 16(1)(3)(a)(b))</p>	
<p>The registered person must prepare and implement a policy (“the behaviour management policy”) which sets out—</p> <p>how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children’s home; and</p> <p>the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home.</p> <p>The registered person must keep the behaviour management policy under review and, where appropriate, revise it.</p> <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—</p> <p>the name of the child;</p> <p>details of the child’s behaviour leading to the use of the measure;</p> <p>the date, time and location of the use of the measure;</p> <p>a description of the measure and its duration;</p> <p>details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;</p> <p>the name of the person who used the measure (“the user”), and of any other person present when the measure was used;</p> <p>the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and</p> <p>a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;</p> <p>within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so (“the authorised person”)—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p>	<p>27 April 2021</p>

<p>has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and</p> <p>within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.</p> <p>(Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (2) (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))</p> <p>This is particularly in relation to incidents of physical intervention in the home. The registered manager needs to ensure that the records are completed as per regulation and he must act on any information that children may share with him or any other members of staff.</p>	
<p>The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which—</p> <p>include information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child;</p> <p>are kept up to date; and</p> <p>are signed and dated by the author of each entry.</p> <p>(Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))</p>	27 April 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: 1240753

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Care 4 Children Holdco Limited

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

Responsible individual: Amy Moulton

Registered manager: Neil Raby

Inspectors

Catherine Fargin, Social Care Inspector
Kathryn Grindrod, Her Majesty's Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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