

1183621

A & T Home Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home, which is run by a private organisation, provides care for up to four children who may present with complex and challenging behaviours. The provider's overall aim is to support children to reunite with their families.

The manager registered in December 2020.

Inspection date: 29 March 2021

This monitoring visit

Following an assurance visit in September 2020, Ofsted served two compliance notices. These were in relation to the quality of the accommodation and the leadership and management of the home. A monitoring visit in October 2020 was undertaken to monitor the action taken by the provider to meet the steps that were set out in the compliance notices. The visit concluded that the provider had met the steps in the notices.

This visit was undertaken following concerns raised with Ofsted by a third party. The visit was undertaken on site. The on-site activities included discussions with the children, the registered manager and the staff, a tour of the accommodation and a review of the records. At the time of the visit, two children were living at the home.

There are several areas of the environment that are poorly maintained and inadequately furnished. One child's bedroom has a broken window that has been boarded up for over for 10 days. The child has minimal bedroom storage and one chest of drawers is unusable because the drawers are broken. The two vacant bedrooms are not ready for occupancy and there is a strong odour of damp on the first-floor landing.

The kitchen has some cupboards and drawers that do not close. One worktop moves away from the wall when the washing machine vibrates. The floor seals and trim are dirty and worn. One lounge curtain has come away from the curtain rail and there

are several untidy extension leads to the back of the television stand. The rear garden has extremely worn and damaged fence panels and there are broken items in the garden and the driveway. The home's car is damaged and unroadworthy. It is not in use but is parked on the driveway. Overall, the standard of accommodation is poor and fails to provide the children with a welcoming or well-kept home.

The staff hold regular fire drills and check the emergency fire equipment weekly. However, on five occasions the staff present during these drills are not recorded on the rota as working at the home. This could cause confusion during an emergency evacuation.

The manager has provided some supervisions for the staff and has addressed practice issues when needed. However, the supervisions are not regular and, for new staff, this fails to provide enough managerial support and guidance.

The children are provided with nutritious meals and enjoy eating these with the staff. The children eat a varied and balanced range of home-cooked fresh food. However, in some instances the staff have not stored or labelled fresh foods and vegetables properly. This does not teach children good life skills or encourage them to eat fresh vegetables.

Despite the poor accommodation, both children are settled and recognise the progress that they have made. They engage well with a tutor at the home, and this is combined with an alternative vocational provision. Children have rebuilt contact with their families and have made friends in the local community.

The staff have built a good rapport with the children; they provide stability and continuity. The staff turnover has reduced since the new manager registered in December 2020. The children enjoy spending time with the staff.

The children feel listened to and can see that their ideas and suggestions are listened to and acted on. Pets have been bought in line with the children's wishes. This has given one child a sense of purpose. The children actively contribute to house meetings in which their views are valued. This has given children a voice and a sense of belonging at the home.

Two requirements that were made at the last inspection have been met. The responsible individual has appointed a manager, who has registered with Ofsted. The manager has taken action to reduce the risk of a fire at the home. Three further requirements and two recommendations made at the previous assurance visit were outside the scope of this visit and have not been reviewed. They are therefore restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/03/2020	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
02/04/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/07/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
27/02/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children;</p> <p>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—</p> <p>meet the needs of each child; and</p> <p>enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii))</p>	4 June 2021
<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 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; and</p> <p>that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(b)(d))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that each child has a clear and suitably detailed risk assessment that is consistently followed by staff. Furthermore, ensure that the drop from the patio is risk assessed.</p>	30 April 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>	30 April 2021

<p>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—</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>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c))</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 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; and</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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(f)(h))</p>	30 April 2021
<p>The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with the appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b))</p> <p>This refers specifically to ensuring that all staff receive regular supervision in line with the supervision policy.</p>	28 May 2021
<p>The registered person must—</p> <p>maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; and ensure that the records are kept up to date. (Regulation 37 (2)(a)(b))</p> <p>This refers specifically to maintaining accurate records of fire drills, visitors and the staff rota.</p>	30 April 2021

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all incidents of control, discipline and restraint are subject to systems of regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair. In particular, ensure a suitable independent review of each record of restraint by someone who is senior to any staff involved in or witness to the incident. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.36)
- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Record information on individual children in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor concerns raised with Ofsted.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1183621

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: A & T Home Limited

Registered provider address: Plot 8, Maitland Road, Lion Barn Estate, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8NZ

Responsible individual: Jeremy Jayasuriya

Registered manager: Parvana Huseinova

Inspectors

Natalie Burton, Social Care Inspector
Deirdra Keating, Social Care Inspector

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