

1273769

Registered provider: Oak Childcare Plus Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care for up to three children who have experienced childhood instability leading to trauma and associated complex behaviours.

The home has been without a registered manager since June 2021

Inspection date: 4 July 2022

This monitoring visit

Ofsted visited the home to complete a full inspection on 20 and 21 April 2022. At the inspection, serious and widespread failures were found that meant children were not protected or their welfare promoted. The home was judged inadequate.

Due to the significant concerns found during the inspection, Ofsted issued 13 requirements and two compliance notices, under regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard).

Ofsted also suspended the home's registration. This means that no children can live in the home while the suspension notice is in place.

A monitoring visit took place on 7 June 2022. At this visit, the inspector found that some improvement had been made and the requirements under regulations 11, 12, 23, 26 and 40 were found to be met. One compliance notice, under regulation 12 (the protection of children standard), had also been met. However, shortfalls remained in some aspects of leadership and management. As a result, the compliance notice was issued again under regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard). The home's registration remained suspended.

On 4 July 2022, a further monitoring visit took place to review the notice of suspension, compliance notice and requirements.

During this visit, the inspector found that further improvements have been made and that the compliance notice under regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard) is considered to be met. A requirement under regulation 33 is also considered to be met.

Managers have implemented auditing tools to provide effective monitoring and oversight of the home. Systems are in place to provide a multi-team approach that helps to identify shortfalls and areas of development. Actions are discussed between senior leaders with timescales for improvements and shared during team meetings, so that all members of the team are aware, with individual actions delegated to the team. Consequently, managers are able to review the impact of the quality of care in the home.

Staff receive routine supervision in line with the organisation's supervision policy. Managers review each documented of supervision completed to ensure the effectiveness of these. For example, the interim manager felt that a concern raised was not appropriately responded to by a supervisor and followed this up with further supervisions to support the member of staff. The supervisor has also been allocated further supervision training to enhance their skills with completing supervisions. This shows that staff are supported and the manager has good oversight of the service.

Despite this good progress, managers have yet to make sufficient progress in other areas to meet two requirements.

Maintenance work is ongoing. During the visit, the inspector observed further works being carried out. Improvements to children's bedrooms have been completed. Managers informed the inspector that a new bathroom suite has been purchased and is scheduled to be fitted within the coming week.

The home continues to have no permanent manager, following the resignation of the manager immediately after the full inspection. An interim manager is in day-to-day charge of the home until a permanent manager is recruited.

Following this monitoring visit, the notice of suspension remains in place. This is because ongoing work to the environment means the home is not in a position to admit children at this time. A further notice of suspension will be served on 15 July 2022, unless the provider makes contact with the regulator to confirm the works on the environment have been completed and Ofsted has the opportunity to revisit the home to review its readiness to safely accept children. Six requirements have been raised. Requirements under regulations 6 and 28 have been raised again, having not been met in full. Requirements under regulations 8, 10, 14 and 35 have not been reviewed during this monitoring visit.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/04/2022	Full	Inadequate
16/09/2021	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
28/04/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/02/2020	Interim	Declined in 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> <p>This specifically relates to the manager ensuring that all maintenance issues are addressed and that the home is maintained to a standard that meets children's needs.</p>	14 August 2022
<p>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans.</p>	3 July 2022

<p>(Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(x))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the manager ensuring that there are effective arrangements in place to meet the educational needs of children.</p>	
<p>The health and well-being standard is that—</p> <p>the health and well-being needs of children are met;</p> <p>children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and</p> <p>children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the manager ensuring that there are effective arrangements in place to meet the health needs of children.</p>	<p>3 July 2022</p>
<p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and</p> <p>have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the manager carrying out a placement matching risk assessment before a child moves into the home.</p>	<p>3 July 2022</p>
<p>A person may only manage a children's home if—</p> <p>having regard to the size of the home, its statement of purpose, and the number and needs (including any needs arising from any disability) of the children—</p> <p>the person has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills to manage the home effectively and lead the care of children. (Regulation 28 (1)(b)(i))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the provider ensuring that there is a registered manager in post who has the necessary training and skills to manage the home.</p>	<p>14 August 2022</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>details of the child’s behaviour leading to 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 effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(ii)(iv)(v)(vii))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the manager ensuring that all physical intervention incidents are recorded clearly, including stating the holds used and that the manager has oversight.</p>	<p>3 July 2022</p>
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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: 1273769

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Oak Childcare Plus Limited

Registered provider address:

Responsible individual: Denise Knowles

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Kev Brammer, Social Care Inspector

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