

SC032154

National Autistic Society (The)

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is part of a charitable trust. It is registered to provide care for up to eight children who may have autism spectrum disorder. Children may have other associated difficulties, such as sensory impairment and/or physical disabilities. At the time of this inspection, two children were living in the home.

The home is divided into two houses, with a communal hub and garden. This registered children's home is also part of a specialist school that provides education on site.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2022.

Inspection date: 19 December 2022

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 8 and 9 November 2022. Inspectors found significant breaches in regulations relating to the safety and protection of children, the leadership and management of the home, restraint and the deprivation of liberty, behaviour management policies and records, and the notification of serious events. As a result of that inspection, Ofsted issued a notice restricting accommodation and issued five compliance notices under regulations 12, 13, 20, 35 and 40.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the notice restricting accommodation. Since the last inspection, no children have moved in to this home. The inspector concluded from this monitoring visit that the provider is adhering to the restriction of accommodation notice. However, the restriction notice remains in place. The compliance notices have not been reviewed at this visit.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/11/2022	Full	Inadequate
22/03/2022	Full	Outstanding
21/01/2020	Full	Outstanding
08/01/2019	Full	Outstanding

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>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff—</p> <p>protect and promote each child's welfare;</p> <p>make decisions about the day-to-day arrangements for each child, in accordance with the child's relevant plans, which give the child an appropriate degree of freedom and choice. (Regulation 6 (1)(a) (2)(b)(ii)(ix))</p>	1 January 2023
<p>The health and well-being standard is that—</p> <p>the health and well-being needs of children are met. (Regulation 10 (1)(a))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that children are medically assessed following incidents of restraint and self-injurious behaviour.</p>	1 January 2023
<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</p>	1 January 2023

<p>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; and</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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(b))</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>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;</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; and</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(c)(f)(h))</p>	1 January 2023
<p>*Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 20 (2))</p>	1 January 2023
<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>	1 January 2023

<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>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>a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; and</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>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. (Regulation 35 (2) (3)(a)(iv)(v)(viii)(b)(i)(c))</p>	
<p>*The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))</p>	1 January 2023
<p>The independent person must produce a report about a visit (“the independent person’s report”) which sets out, in particular, the independent person’s opinion as to whether—</p> <p>children are effectively safeguarded; and</p> <p>the conduct of the home promotes children’s well-being.</p> <p>The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person’s report to—</p> <p>HMCI. (Regulation 44 (4)(a)(b) (7)(a))</p>	1 January 2023

<p>In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating—</p> <p>the quality of care provided for children;</p> <p>the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and</p> <p>any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.</p> <p>The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (2)(a)(b)(c) (5))</p>	<p>1 January 2023</p>
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*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Recommendations

- The registered persons should ensure that the children's home provides a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of their children. They will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. The children's bedrooms need to be clean, and any sign of bodily fluids cleaned. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, and should understand the key role they play in the training and development of staff in the home. In particular, ensure that all staff have up-to-date food hygiene training, and the senior team receive relevant risk assessment training. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 53, paragraph 10.11)

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: SC032154

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: National Autistic Society (The)

Registered provider address: 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG

Responsible individual: Victoria Moss

Registered manager: Emma Knott

Inspector

Jennifer Fenlon, Social Care Inspector

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