

# 1263124

Registered provider: Autonomy Plus Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## **Information about this children's home**

This home is owned by a private organisation. It provides care for up to five children with a learning disability and additional needs. At the time of the inspection, four children were living at this home.

The manager was registered with Ofsted on 12 December 2022.

**Inspection date: 11 January 2023**

## **This monitoring visit**

Ofsted received information that raised concerns about the day-to-day running of the children's home. This information included concerns about the sufficiency of staff, the quality of the premises, sufficiency of food, and menu planning. This monitoring visit was undertaken to look into the concerns raised and to ensure that the requirements of the children's homes regulations are being met.

The inspector found that staff take pride in ensuring that the home is clean and in good order. Children's bedrooms had been cleaned and were all found to be neat, personalised and generally well maintained.

Some areas of the home need repairing or maintenance. Although these repairs have been identified, some repairs remain in progress and others are yet to begin. One double-glazed window in the dining room is broken, and action has been taken to order a replacement.

Sufficient food is available for the children, and the ingredients to prepare chicken curry for dinner that evening were in the fridge. Staff use menu plans each day and ensure that these are used to prepare the weekly shopping lists. Children's daily records show what meals they have had. When some children opt to restrict the

food they choose, the manager is considering how to introduce different foods to them.

Staff recruitment remains a concern and there continues to be a reliance on permanent staff, bank staff and agency staff to cover vacancies. It remains that agency staff are regularly making up 50% of the care staff team. Leaders and managers recognise that this has been challenging and that this has had an impact on the staff team. Rotas show that agreed staffing ratios are being met. Leaders and managers reported that, when possible, the permanent staff and bank staff are being asked to cover the majority of vacant shifts. Agency staff are now being booked in advance, a month at a time, so that consistency of care for the children can be better maintained.

The requirements set at the last full inspection will remain in place to be reviewed at the next inspection.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/09/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
18/10/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/06/2021	Full	Inadequate

## 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>help each child to understand how to keep safe;</p> <p>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</p> <p>manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other;</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>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies;</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 effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly.</p>	9 September 2022

<p>(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(e))</p> <p>This requirement is restated.</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>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))</p> <p>This requirement is restated.</p>	<p>9 September 2022</p>
<p>The registered person must ensure that the employment of any person on a temporary basis at the children's home does not prevent children from receiving such continuity of care as is reasonable to meet their needs. (Regulation 31 (1))</p> <p>This requirement is restated.</p>	<p>30 September 2022</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. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (2))</p> <p>This requirement is restated.</p>	<p>30 September 2022</p>

## Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home's records on each child represent a significant contribution to their life history. Staff should keep, and encourage children to keep, appropriate memorabilia of the time spent living at

the home and help them to record significant life events. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.5)

- The registered person should ensure that repairs to any damage in the home are dealt with promptly to create a warm, welcoming environment throughout. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

## **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:** 1263124

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Autonomy Plus Limited

**Registered provider address:** 67 Roundpond, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 8EB

**Responsible individual:** Nicholas Faulkner-Elliott

**Registered manager:** Michael Evans

## **Inspector**

Kerry Fell, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2023