

1241975

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care for up to four children who have had adverse early experiences and who have complex needs.

There is a permanent registered manager.

Inspection date: 14 November 2023

Date of last inspection: 24 July 2023

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Outcome from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Findings from the inspection

There were three children living at the home at the time of the inspection. Staff provide care that gives children a good experience, with a focus on keeping them safe. Children are encouraged to pursue hobbies and interests. For example, one child is enjoying being on a football team, and other children really value their time spent at the stables with the horses.

There have been a number of behavioural incidents for all children at this home, some of which are significant. Staff understand and use de-escalation techniques to reduce the frequency and severity of incidents. Bespoke staff training has led to increased consistency of care and fewer physical interventions for one child.

Staff sustain positive relationships with children. Following incidents, staff focus on supporting children to restore relationships. For example, for some children, a tactile approach is used and hugs are offered. As a result, children actively seek out interaction and support from staff.

Staff understand that children's experiences can inhibit their ability to build relationships. Staff are building their own resilience and maintaining a nurturing approach to children's care. As a result, children are building trusted relationships with staff.

Staff understand children's needs, and their care is well planned. Children's plans detail their needs and risks. Plans give staff clear guidance to provide care for children that promotes their well-being and safety. There has been a reduction in incidents of children going missing from the home. Staff take action to prevent and respond to incidents. Staff are vigilant, and often their actions have successfully prevented children from being at risk.

Staff understand how to respond in the event of an allegation. Allegations have been appropriately recorded and reported. However, on one occasion, the manager carried out an investigation into an allegation when she had been part of the incident. Therefore, it was not an objective investigation. Managers have not ensured that children have adequate support from the local authority, particularly to understand their care plans. The escalation of this has been ineffective and insufficient.

The manager has met the requirement and recommendation from the last inspection. The manager has a realistic view of the challenges at the home and where further development is required to improve children's experiences.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/07/2023	Full	Good
04/01/2023	Full	Good
22/08/2018	Full	Good
07/03/2018	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, The 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>In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff—</p> <p>seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>seek to secure the input and services required to meet each child's needs;</p> <p>if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans; and</p> <p>seek to develop and maintain effective professional relationships with such persons, bodies or organisations as the registered person considers appropriate having regard to the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation. (Regulation 5 (a)(b)(c)(d))</p>	26 January 2024
<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.</p> <p>that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(b)(d))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the investigation of allegations being objective.</p>	26 January 2024

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1241975

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 12, Venture House, Prospect Business Park,
Longford Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 0LG

Responsible individual: Prudence Shaw

Registered manager: Lisa Hannon

Inspector

Alison Snell, Social Care Inspector

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