

1159884

Registered provider: Spark Of Genius North East LLP

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private company. It provides care for up to five children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

There was one child resident at the time of the inspection.

There has been no registered manager since December 2023.

Inspection date: 3 March 2025

This monitoring visit

An assurance visit took place on 11 December 2024. At this visit, the inspector found serious and widespread concerns. Following a case review the same day, it was decided that two compliance notices would be issued in relation to regulations 12 and 27 and a restriction of accommodation notice was served.

A monitoring visit took place on 28 January 2025. Following a case review on 29 January 2025, it was agreed that the compliance notice issued in relation to regulation 27 had been met. However, the provider had not met the steps within the compliance notice issued under regulation 12, and that was reissued.

Staff have a good understanding of the risks the child is vulnerable to. The child has a thorough and up-to-date risk assessment, which staff routinely follow. Staff take prompt action when a risk emerges, and seek appropriate support from partner professionals, to ensure the child's safety.

The manager has recruited a team of suitably experienced permanent staff. All staff are either qualified or working towards the relevant qualification. This helps the child build and maintain trusting relationships, contributing to a greater sense of belonging and permanence. The child expressed how much happier they are with familiar adults caring for them.

The home was in a state of upheaval during the visit, with a substantial programme of redecoration in progress. The home presented as much cleaner, and the completed work is to a good standard. Staff talked of a fresh start with new permanent staff and a refreshed home. The child is looking forward to the work in their home being completed.

Two children have moved on from the home. The circumstances gave staff little time to prepare the children for their move. This does not support a positive end to the placement, with both children moving suddenly.

The manager is improving their oversight of the home. However, the child's care plan has not been updated, and there was no plan of focused direct work for staff to follow. This hinders the child from developing essential life skills around self-care and learning, to improve their ability to make safe decisions.

The manager has not admitted any more children to the home.

Following a case review held on 6 March 2025, it was agreed that the remaining compliance notice in relation to regulation 12 has been met. The provider has made sufficient improvements in the running of the home. It was agreed that the restriction of accommodation will expire.

Requirements made at the last inspection are outside the scope of this visit. These will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/09/2024	Full	Good
22/08/2023	Full	Good
15/02/2023	Full	Good
24/01/2022	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; and 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. (Regulation 13 1(b) (2)(d)(e)(f)) This requirement has been reissued.	30 April 2025
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that arrangements are in place to—	30 April 2025

plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(iii))	
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This requirement has been reissued.	
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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: 1159884

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Spark Of Genius North East LLP

Registered provider address: King Edwin School, Mill Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS20 1LG

Responsible individual: Stephen McGhee

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Lisa Gordon, Social Care Inspector

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