

1241782

Lancashire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority children's home. It is registered to provide care for up to six young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 8 June 2017

This monitoring visit

The home was judged as requires improvement to be good at the full inspection on 3 and 4 May 2017.

Concerns have been raised with Ofsted in relation to young people's behaviour in the community, some of which occurs late at night. Concerns have also been raised about the staff's ability to manage these behaviours.

A monitoring inspection was carried out to investigate these concerns.

The last inspection identified that there was no clear plan to manage some young people's anti-social behaviour in the community. Risk assessments did not contain enough information about this, so a requirement was raised to address this shortfall.

This inspection found that this requirement has not been met. Not all young people's risk assessments have been reviewed. These documents still contain insufficient information. They do not provide clear guidance for staff about how to manage young people's unacceptable behaviour in the community and prevent it from happening. This does not promote young people's safety and the safety of others.

Staff do not manage the difficult dynamic between some young people well. As a result, these young people regularly join forces and present challenging behaviour. A member of staff said: '[We] are managing incidents every day. All day, every day, [the boys' behaviour] builds through the day and then we see the issues we do in the evening.' Managers and staff do not organise and plan day-to-day life in the

home effectively, to stop situations escalating. As a result, some young people's challenging behaviour in the community, and in the home, has increased in frequency and severity. This places young people and others at risk of harm.

This inspection found that managers do not monitor records and review incidents promptly. As a result, managers do not identify when staff fail to take appropriate action to safeguard young people. For example, despite known risks, staff did not report two young people missing until eight hours after they were last seen. Staff did not follow the guidance that was in the young people's risk assessments about this. This shortfall was not picked up by the manager or addressed with the staff involved. This lack of robust monitoring does not promote young people's welfare.

Records fail to show the action taken by staff to challenge young people's behaviour. This is despite them being present when unacceptable behaviour occurs in the community. Managers do not review incidents with the staff to look at what could have been done differently to prevent reoccurrence. As a result, they are not supporting staff to learn lessons and bring about change, and this compromises young people's welfare and the welfare of others. This does not show good leadership.

Some young people get drawn into negative behaviour, and this impedes their progress. For example, one young person's school attendance has declined since coming to live at the home six weeks ago. His attendance has reduced from 100% to 60%. Although the manager recognises that the young person's attendance has declined, he has not taken sufficient action to address this. Thus, the registered person is not using his understanding to bring about change and promote education. If not rectified quickly, this sharp decline in school attendance will impact on the young person's educational attainment.

As a result of this visit, three requirements are raised, two of which are subject to enforcement action.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/05/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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
11: The positive relationships standard The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans; help each child to develop socially aware behaviour. (Regulation 11(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(i)(ii))	30/06/2017
12: The protection of children standard* The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— 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; 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)(b))	30/06/2017
13: The leadership and management standard* The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the	30/06/2017

registered person to— 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(f)(h))	
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*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: 1241782

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Registered provider address: Lancashire County Council, PO Box 78, Preston PR1 8XJ

Responsible individual: Paul McIntyre

Registered manager: Mark Davies

Inspector(s)

Jackie Line, social care inspector

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