

1252095

Registered provider: Restorative Social Care Services LTD.

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned. It offers care for up to two children who may experience social and emotional difficulties. Two children were living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2022.

Inspection date: 15 August 2024

Date of last inspection: 30 April 2024

Judgement at last inspection: good

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

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

The inspector 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We identified the following serious and widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection:

- There are significant shortfalls in the safety and protection of children, and the children's welfare is not being promoted.
- Leaders and managers have failed to make effective arrangements to safeguard children.

The purpose of this inspection was to review the provider's practice in response to a serious incident that had been notified to Ofsted. During the inspection, both children were spoken with.

Staff have not responded to children's needs or implemented safety strategies to promote their welfare. On one occasion, staff did not check on children during the night. Consequently, staff were not aware that the children had been missing from the home overnight. While missing from home, the children were involved in a significant safeguarding incident. The failings in staff practice meant that the staff were unable to take immediate action to safeguard and protect the children from harm.

Risk assessments and safety plans do not reflect the children's needs and risks. The behaviours that place the children and their peers at risk are not sufficiently recognised, and staff do not have the necessary guidance and strategies to protect children. Staff practice is not dynamic and responsive to the presenting needs and risks for children. On one occasion, the children were able to leave the home together, despite them being missing from the home earlier that day, where they were at risk of significant harm.

Staff responses have not been effective in ensuring that children who are at risk of harming themselves are physically safe. Despite recent incidents of a child's self-injurious harm, the staff have not checked that children's bedrooms are a safe space. One child's bedroom was not free from hazards and could cause harm to the child.

Staff have not helped children to understand associated risk relating to exploitation and substance misuse. This means that children are not helped to understand the risk and develop the skills and strategies to keep themselves safe.

On one occasion, staff have sought police assistance when a child was experiencing an emotionally difficult time. Gaps in incident records mean it is unclear what de-escalation techniques were used by staff to help the child before contacting the police. This approach restricts children's opportunities to understand the triggers for their behaviours and form trusting relationships with the staff.

Managers do not use existing monitoring and review systems to understand the care experiences of children. Managers have not recognised or reflected on the shortfalls in staff practice. This means that poor practice is not challenged in a timely manner, leading to ongoing poor experiences for children.

Leaders and managers do not ensure that all staff have the skills and knowledge to meet children's needs. Some staff have not accessed support to understand the children's individual needs and risks. One staff member was unaware of the home's whistle-blowing procedures. This failure to ensure that staff are equipped with the knowledge that they need places children at risk of harm.

As a result of this inspection, Ofsted has issued two compliance notices. The notices will be reviewed in line with Ofsted's enforcement policy.

This was a focused inspection. Therefore, the requirements from the last inspection have not been the focus of this one and are restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/04/2024	Full	Good
17/05/2023	Full	Good
14/02/2023	Full	Inadequate
22/02/2022	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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
*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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iv)(vi)(d))	22 September 2024
*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 registered person to—	22 September 2024

lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; 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)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(f))	
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— have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; 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; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(iii)(v)(vii)(b)(e))	11 October 2024

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1252095

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Restorative Social Care Services LTD.

Registered provider address: 69a Saddleworth Road, Greetland, Halifax HX4 8AG

Responsible individual: Christopher Kershaw

Registered manager: Stephen Tuck

Inspector

Gina Lightfoot, Social Care Inspector

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