

1277584

De Novo Care Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care for up to three children who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager has been in post since the beginning of January 2021. They were previously the deputy manager at this provision. They are not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 23 to 24 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit took place as the home has not had an inspection for 17 months and there has been a change in management. The visit took place virtually, with video calls used to speak with managers, staff and the one child present at the time.

Effective arrangements are in place to manage risks associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus). The current pandemic has had an impact on children. One child is struggling with isolation. This has led to some non-compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, and increased incidents of the child going missing. Staff are mindful of the emotional impact of the current restrictions. They support children emotionally and practically to try and manage this difficult situation.

There are gaps in the staff's understanding of exploitation and associated risks. This is compounded at times by staff trying to establish whether a child is missing or absent without consent. An over-optimistic approach prevents them from considering risks fully. Staff are unclear about expectations of them. This results in inconsistent approaches to children's needs.

Children are not always enabled to have a conversation with an independent person following a period of them being missing. This prevents them from sharing any

worries or concerns they may have in respect of their care. Details about the conversations that do take place are not always shared or requested by the manager. This prevents the information from being used to inform children's future care.

There are weaknesses in aspects of recording. For example, a recent compatibility assessment lacks full consideration of each of the children's needs. Likewise, not all children's records are up to date. Furthermore, the statement of purpose has not been updated in line with regulation.

The records in respect of fire drills are weak. Not enough information is collated to allow for robust management oversight of fire drills and to improve and manage quicker and safer evacuation.

There have been several changes in staffing over recent months. The staff in the newly established team are motivated and eager to learn and move this service forward. They are led by an able manager who includes them in decision-making about the home.

Children have developed positive, trusting relationships with staff. The staff hold positive aspirations for children and their futures. Children are encouraged to work towards fulfilling their hopes and dreams. There is good evidence of helpful, supportive and meaningful conversations. These discussions aim to guide and help children to make positive choices. Children find these conversations helpful.

Other agencies report positive communication and collaborative working. They are kept up to date with children's development and any emerging concerns. Managers attend important meetings in respect of children, to ensure that the best interests of children are promoted.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/08/2019	Full	Good
29/01/2019	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(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
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; 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. (Regulation 12 (1)(a)(i)(iii)(v)) In particular, ensure that responses to children going missing from home are consistent, and children are always afforded a return-from-missing interview with an independent person.	31 March 2021
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. (Regulation 16 (1))	31 March 2021
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child and are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b))	31 March 2021

Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; ensure that the records are kept up to date. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)) In particular, this relates to fire drills and records.	31 March 2021
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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: 1277584

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: De Novo Care Ltd

Registered provider address: Bank Green House, Fox Lane, Holmesfield, Dronfield, Derbyshire S18 7WG

Responsible individual: Steed Harris

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Tracey Ledder, Social Care Inspector

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