

1280237

United Children's Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a private provider. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The registered manager resigned after the last full inspection in February 2020. Interim management arrangements are in place while the provider is actively recruiting a new manager.

Inspection date: 12 May 2020

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at its full inspection on 11 and 12 February 2020. The provider quickly provided Ofsted with a comprehensive action plan.

No monitoring visit was undertaken to the setting because of the current COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis. Monitoring of the setting was carried out through a series of calls to the provider, written submissions from the provider, contact with the placing local authority and a review of reports provided by the home's independent visitor.

Ofsted received an updated action plan from the provider on 30 April 2020. This action plan clearly outlined the steps that have been taken to address the requirements made at the full inspection.

In addition, Ofsted has closely scrutinised the home's independent visitor's reports. These indicate that there have been improvements in the home.

The manager has submitted notifications following any significant incidents. Following a review of these notifications, staff practice appears to have improved.

Feedback has also been obtained from the placing authority and considered as part of this review. The placing authority social worker has confirmed that there have been improvements to the quality of care provided and that the young person is making progress.

Sufficient work has been carried out to address the requirements made at the full inspection. The quality of care for young people has been improved, and they are better protected from the risk of harm.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/02/2020	Full	Inadequate
10/10/2019	Interim	Not judged

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 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 ensure the effective induction of each child into the home and to manage and review the placement of each child in the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)(2)(b)(i)(ii)) This includes ensuring that children's care plans and risk assessments are reviewed and updated to reflect current needs and risks.	29/03/2020
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff— help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers;	29/03/2020

help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1)(2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii)(x))	
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; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child's behaviour, in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; strive to gain each child's respect and trust;	29/03/2020

understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children; are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same; de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii)(ix)(x)(xi))	
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there. (Regulation 40 (4)(c))	01/03/2020
After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must ensure, by means of fire drills and practices at suitable intervals, that persons working at the home and, so far as reasonably practicable, children are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire. (Regulation 25 (1)(d))	01/03/2020
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— 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;	29/03/2020

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)(a)(b)(2)(a)(c)(d)(e)(f))	
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— 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; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(h))	29/03/2020
The registered person must ensure that each employee completes an appropriate induction, undertakes appropriate continuing professional development and receives practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (1)(a)(4)(a)(b))	01/03/2020
The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and	01/03/2020

notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision.	
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(Regulation 16 (3)(a)(b))

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: 1280237

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: United Children's Services Limited

Registered provider address: The Old Coach House, Drinsey Nook, Lincoln, Nottinghamshire LN1 2JJ

Responsible individual: Wayne Parkes

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Katarina Djordjevic, social care inspector

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