

2563216

North East Lincolnshire Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority operates and manages this home. This children's home is registered to provide care for up to four children with social and emotional difficulties. The home was registered with Ofsted in November 2019.

The registered manager has not been in day-to-day charge of the home since 30 July 2021. A new manager is in post, but is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

Inspection date: 7 September 2021

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 3 and 4 August 2021, because children living in the home were at risk of serious harm. Leaders and managers failed to address safeguarding concerns and respond to environmental hazards within the home. As a result of these failures, children's safety was compromised. Ofsted issued three compliance notices under regulation 12, 14 and 25. Ofsted also raised a further three requirements. Action taken to address these three requirements has not been considered as part of this monitoring visit.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the progress and the actions taken to meet the compliance notices. This monitoring visit included a review of the documents and discussions and interviews with the interim manager and other relevant people. The inspector concluded from this monitoring visit that one step set in the compliance notices with regard to regulation 12 was not met.

Children's safety plans are not robust. Children who have had a fractious and abusive relationship no longer live together but remain in a relationship. As the foundation of the children's relationship changes, the monitoring and guidance from responsible adults has weakened. Concerningly, the safety plan for the child still

living in the home does not give the staff adequate direction to review and mitigate this specific risk. There is an absence of welfare checks, observation and discussions with children to assess their safety and protection when together.

The condition of the home has been improved. Necessary maintenance has been completed so that the home presents as welcoming and hazard-free for children. Fire safety within the home has been addressed. Fire equipment is fully functional and fire procedures and audits allow for shortfalls to be identified and fixed. Procedural developments mean that maintenance issues are being quickly identified and repaired.

Risk assessments have been updated and now include pertinent information relevant to individual children. Steps have been taken to address the violence and aggression between children. Since the last inspection, there have been no incidents. The children's risk assessments provide the staff with strategies to mitigate and respond to risk. The staff's implementation of strategies is checked and challenged through the manager's day-to-day oversight. This improved approach helps to keep children safe.

Placement moves have been carefully considered and planned to help children to manage this significant event. The changing dynamic of children in the home and improved practice have brought stability and routine back to the home. Children are able to settle to sleep at night and are taking steps towards achieving their goals, for example by attending school.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/08/2021	Full	Inadequate

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 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 each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(b))	1 October 2021
*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 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)(b))	14 November 2021
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))	1 October 2021
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month.	1 October 2021

When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a))	
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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: 2563216

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Registered provider address: Civic Offices, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire DN35 8LN

Responsible individual: Yvonne Shearwood

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Jennifer Fenlon, Social Care Inspector

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