

2563216

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority owns and manages this home. The home provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties. The suitably qualified manager registered with Ofsted in October 2021.

Two children were living in the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 May 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 25 October 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/07/2022	Full	Inadequate
24/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
18/11/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff create a welcoming atmosphere in the home. Children move into the home following detailed planning. Children enjoy good relationships with staff who spend time getting to know them. Children spoke positively about the staff and feel confident in speaking to them if they have any worries or concerns.

Children are supported to be healthy, and staff ensure that children's health needs are met. Staff provide the children with healthy and nutritious meals. Staff work with other health professionals to encourage children to access the physical and emotional health services that they need. These efforts ensure that the children's health is maintained.

Children's educational needs are prioritised. When children are anxious about changes in their education, staff provide individualised support. Staff work closely with educational professionals to ensure that children are supported to participate in alternative education plans. This helps children to recognise the importance of education and develop aspirations for their futures.

Staff support children to take part in a range of activities to help them explore their talents and interests, including swimming and horse riding. These opportunities help children to develop their self-esteem and confidence. This also helps children with their social skills and development.

Staff are proactive in encouraging children to see their families in line with their care plans. They transport them to visit their families and support them emotionally when needed. As a result, children maintain close connections with the people that are important to them. This helps children to develop a positive self-image and sense of identity.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Risk assessments are updated after significant incidents. However, risk assessments are hard to follow. The lack of clarity does not help staff identify the most relevant risks to the children. Behaviour logs also lack management oversight. This shortfall means there is no review to ensure that measures used to support children are proportionate. This does not ensure that children are safeguarded effectively.

The manager has failed to notify Ofsted of one serious incident that placed a child at risk of harm. This hinders the regulator's ability to monitor safeguarding practice in the home.

The staff use physical intervention as a last resort. They use low level holds for a short time for the safety of children and staff. The children and the staff always

reflect on what happened during incidents. This helps them to think of what could be done in the future to prevent these from occurring.

Staff teach children to learn how to keep themselves safe. This is because staff have discussions with children on relevant topics, including healthy relationships and internet safety. This helps children to understand the potential risks to their safety and well-being.

The staff are employed following safe recruitment procedures. The procedures ensure that the staff are suitable to work with the children. The staff complete a range of courses in relation to safeguarding children. As a result, the staff know how to report any concerns, and they feel confident to follow procedures to keep the children safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders and managers have responded well to the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. They understand what works well in the home and where further improvements are needed. The registered manager is well supported by a staff team that is committed to make a positive difference to children's lives.

The staff report feeling well supported by the registered manager. They feel that morale is improving. They have regular supervision sessions, where they explore the progress of children and reflect on how to deliver better care. This helps to improve the day-to-day care that children receive from staff.

The registered manager ensures the staff are continually undertaking a range of training. The training helps the staff to understand the children's needs. The registered manager uses team meetings to practise scenarios of issues that staff may encounter in their practice. This means that the staff are supported to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to care for the children effectively.

The registered manager works with other professionals, such as social workers and specialist mental health workers. These good relationships help to make sure that the children's plans are followed and that they are working towards their goals. This supports partnership working and means that children's welfare is better protected.

The registered manager has auditing tools in place to monitor the children's progress, staff performance and the overall quality of care that children receive. Despite these monitoring systems, there are some important documents that lack management oversight. In addition, the language used in some children's records stigmatises them. This recording is not helpful to children should they wish to view their records in the future.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered persons 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 persons 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))	7 July 2023
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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))	7 July 2023
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))	7 July 2023

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This 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'.

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: Sandra Snell

Registered manager: Tracy Jefferson

Inspector

Evelyn Chafota, Social Care Inspector

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