

# 2565231

Registered provider: Unity Residential Care Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## **Information about this children's home**

This home is registered to provide care for three children who may have emotional, behavioural or social difficulties.

The registered manager has been in post since March 2022.

**Inspection date: 31 August 2022**

## **This monitoring visit**

On 20 July 2022, an assurance inspection identified serious concerns in relation to the care and protection of children. A compliance notice was issued under regulation 12, the protection of children standard.

The purpose of this visit was to review the progress made in meeting the compliance notice steps. The other requirements raised at the assurance inspection have not been considered as part of this visit and have been restated.

The registered manager has taken proactive steps to ensure that the compliance notice is met. A new risk assessment proforma has been introduced and is in the process of being rolled out to be used for each child. Although this new proforma is not yet being used for all children, the registered manager has reviewed the risk assessments for each child. Risk assessments reflect children's vulnerabilities and known risks and give staff clear guidance on the strategies they need to follow to safeguard children.

The registered manager has implemented systems to monitor staff's compliance with reading and understanding the risk assessments. The registered manager recognises that these systems are in their infancy and are not yet fully established.

Staff have undertaken a range of training to increase their knowledge and understanding of how to safeguard children. Further training is scheduled to take place, but staff are now adequately trained to meet the needs of those children currently living in the home.

The home has been relatively settled since the last inspection. However, when safeguarding incidents have occurred, staff have taken appropriate action in response. Furthermore, following such incidents, the registered manager and staff have worked with relevant professionals to review and update the strategies that are in place to safeguard children.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 02/11/2021      | 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        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <p>In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff—</p> <p>seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>seek to secure the input and services required to meet each child's needs;</p> <p>if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (a)(b)(c)(d))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered manager liaising effectively with children's placing authorities to ensure that they are actively involved with children's care planning.</p> | 17 October 2022 |
| <p>The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff—</p> <p>ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare. (Regulation 7 (1)(c) (2)(a)(i))</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 17 October 2022 |

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| <p>This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that children's wishes are sought and considered.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        |
| <p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(h))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that staff complete relevant training to have the skills to meet the needs of children in their care.</p> <p>This also relates to ensuring that there are effective monitoring tools in place.</p> | <p>17 October 2022</p> |
| <p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and</p> <p>have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that arrangements are in place to—</p> <p>manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and</p> <p>plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>17 October 2022</p> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <p>(Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(ii)(iii))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring children's moves out of the home are planned and sensitively managed and children are supported with this process.</p>                                                  |                        |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that all staff receive regular supervision.</p> | <p>17 October 2022</p> |

## 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:** 2565231

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Unity Residential Care Services Limited

**Registered provider address:** 2 Lymeale Court, Lyme Drive, Parklands, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 6NW

**Responsible individual:** Hilary Jones

**Registered manager:** Claire Lumsden

## Inspector

Paul Robinson, Social Care Inspector

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