

2571033

Registered provider: Nurture Childcare Services Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The registered manager post is currently vacant.

The home is owned by a private provider. The home provides accommodation for one child with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and who is unable to live at home.

Inspection date: 7 December 2021

This monitoring visit

This home was judged as inadequate at the full inspection on 3 November 2021. Compliance notices were set in relation to safeguarding, risk management and leadership. As a result, a further monitoring visit was conducted on 8 December 2021.

During this visit, significant shortfalls were identified that indicated the child is at continuing risk of harm.

Continued shortfalls in risk management were identified. Examples of risk management plans not being followed by staff were noted by the inspector. For example, despite a child having a history of smoking in her bedroom and considered to be at high risk, the manager had not taken sufficient action to address unsafe conditions, which resulted in a child's bedroom containing a large number of smoked cigarettes. Furthermore, the child's bedroom was viewed to be in an unkempt state. This poses a health and safety risk to the child and staff. As a result, a safe environment for the child has not been maintained.

Staff allowed the mother of the child to be left alone in the child's bedroom with her, unsupervised by staff, despite the contact plan being clear that all family time must be fully supervised. This does not demonstrate robust safeguarding practice and leaves the child at potential risk of harm.

The child's bedroom was viewed by the inspector which identified the child had been smoking a number of cigarettes and an unknown digital watch was found. Although the risk assessment was clear that staff must undertake a room search if the child was suspected to be smoking, the child told the inspector that staff could not enter her room until she had tidied it and staff did not, therefore, carry out a room search. Staff are therefore not demonstrating that they are following risk assessments and, as a result, the child is left exposed to harm.

Staff members informed the inspector that they believe they are unable to safeguard the child and comply with her risk assessment in relation to the removal of the child's mobile phone and removal of cigarette lighters. The child is considered high risk of child sexual exploitation and has been found on a number of occasions with adult males. As a result, this demonstrates that staff are unclear of what action to take to safeguard the child. Failure to provide clear risk management guidance, or to ensure that staff follow such guidance when it is in place, means that children are not protected from harm. Furthermore, the allocated social worker was not aware that these risks were not being managed by staff.

There is an insufficient number of experienced and suitably skilled staff working in this home. This leaves staff who demonstrate poor practice and do not have the skills, knowledge, or experience to understand how to care for children in the home. This places the child at potential risk harm.

Managers and staff are failing to recognise when children's care is being compromised. For example, staff are failing to follow risk management plans and placing authority care plans, in relation to a child who should not travel to their hometown, due to the serious concerns in relation to the child going missing and sexual exploitation. Staff members took the child to an activity in the child's hometown. As a result, this placed the child at significant risk of harm.

The quality of management oversight and monitoring has not improved and has significantly declined. The interim manager has informed Ofsted she is resigning from her post, and the operational manager was placed at the home to have management oversight and to support the interim manager. Despite this, managers are failing to identify and address shortfalls and make improvements. This is evident in the serious concerns that have been identified and have resulted in compliance notices being issued again. Issues identified as shortfalls at the last inspection are recurring and, in some areas, quality is deteriorating further.

As a result of the monitoring visit, Ofsted has taken further compliance action to help ensure that the child is provided with safe, effective care. Inspectors will continue to monitor the provider closely.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/11/2021	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 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; 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; that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(b)(d))	9 January 2022
*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.	9 January 2022

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—

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; 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)(f)(h))

*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: 2571033

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Nurture Childcare Services Ltd

Registered provider address: 71 Edge End Lane, Great Harwood, Blackburn BB6 7QD

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Rachel Springford, Social Care Inspector

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