

2592713

Homes for Support Limited

Monitoring visit

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care for up to five children. The provider states in its statement of purpose that they provide care for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties (social and emotional difficulties). The site consists of a main house and an annex.

The home is managed by an experienced registered manager.

Inspection date: 2 August 2022

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 10 May 2022. Compliance notices were served under regulation 12, regulation 13 and regulation 14. A restriction notice was also issued. This means that no more children can move into the home.

A monitoring visit was conducted on 21 June 2022 to review the progress in addressing the steps in the compliance notices. This visit concluded that insufficient steps had been taken to address the notices under regulation 12 and regulation 14. As a result, two compliance notices were issued in respect of these regulations and the restriction of accommodation remained in place.

There are currently two children living in the home. There have been no new admissions since the last full inspection.

The provider has taken steps to address the shortfalls in safeguarding knowledge and practice under regulation 12.

Records of team meetings and staff supervision emphasise the deficits in the staff team's knowledge and understanding and have provided a safe forum for this to be carefully explored.

Extensive internal and external training sessions have been provided for staff. These sessions include a range of safeguarding scenarios, knowledge quizzes and practical guidance on the assessment and management of risk. As a result, staff's awareness and understanding of managing risks have improved.

Additional training, including the roles and responsibilities of a corporate parent, children's development and children's natural curiosity have assisted the staff to have a better understanding of the importance of their role in safeguarding children. This training has explored the concept of enabling children to take measured risks, against those risks which would require an escalated response.

The new registered manager has taken steps to ensure that the online recording system identifies when updated documents, such as policies, placement plans and risk assessments, have not been reviewed by staff. This monitoring has resulted in necessary action. Taking this action reinforces the importance of a collective and consistent response to the protection of children.

Guidance on creating, developing and managing risk assessments has been further developed. This has assisted the staff team to update risk assessments and include the specific action to take should a child be at risk of harm.

Since the last monitoring visit on 21 June 2022, there have been no incidents of concern.

The provider has taken steps to address the shortfalls in relation to care planning under regulation 14.

The acting manager has successfully registered with Ofsted to become the home's permanent registered manager. The manager has the experience and skills required to support the continued development of the team.

Assessments that consider risks associated with children moving into the home have been developed across the organisation to create a uniformed approach to the matching process for new referrals. Managers and staff have been provided with guidance and training to enhance their skills and knowledge in assessing referrals to the home. This new guidance provides managers with practical scenarios to consider when assessing if the home can suitably meet the needs of the child.

Children are cared for by staff with a variety of experience. Not all the staff are qualified. However, two staff have completed the diploma in children and young people's workforce at level 5 and two staff are qualified at level 3. The remaining staff are undertaking this training and are near completion. This continued professional training is aimed to assist the staff in providing a good-quality care experience for children.

Placement planning has improved. Each placement plan has been revised to include a review of the child's individual needs and the actions to be taken to address them.

Key-work sessions are developed in accordance with the targets of each child's individual plan. As a result, managers and staff can quickly track each child's individual progress towards their plan.

Key-work sessions and weekly summaries are provided to the placing authority for review. However, feedback is not regularly received. This is because of inconsistencies in social worker allocation. This has resulted in two siblings having six social workers in a 12-month period. The registered manager has taken steps to escalate this concern in the authority.

Pathway planning has improved. A clear and structured plan is in place to aid the move of one child to an identified foster placement in his home community. Evidence of regular key-work sessions provide a good insight into the awareness of the child making the move and the support being provided by staff. This move will enable the child to resume his studies at his preferred school and reconnect with teachers and friends.

Following a case review, it is Ofsted's view that the provider has successfully met the compliance notices. The notice restricting accommodation will not be renewed and will expire on 3 August 2022. Requirements set at the inspection will be considered at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection judgement

10/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
01/02/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be 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
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— 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 the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship; and that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(iii)(vii)(b))	5 August 2022
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. 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; and	5 August 2022

to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires.

A visit by the independent person to the home may be unannounced.

The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether—

children are effectively safeguarded; and

the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.

The independent person's report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions.

(Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))

The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months.

In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating—

the quality of care provided for children;

the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and

any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.

After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality-of-care review ("the quality of care review report").

The registered person must—

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supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed; and

make a copy of the quality of care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home.

The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff.

(Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))

Recommendation

- The registered person should actively seek independent scrutiny of the home and make best use of information from independent and internal monitoring (including under regulations 44 and 45) to ensure continuous improvement. They should be skilled in anticipating difficulties and reviewing incidents, such as learning from disruptions and placement breakdowns. They are responsible for proactively implementing lessons learned and sustaining good practice. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 55, paragraph 10.24)

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: 2592713

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Homes for Support Limited

Registered provider address: 1st Floor, Cloister House, Riverside, New Bailey Street, Manchester M3 5FS

Responsible individual: Peter Rowlinson

Registered manager: Andrew Duffy

Inspector

Maria McGranaghan, Social Care Inspector

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