

2592713

Registered provider: Homes for Support 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 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 registered manager has decided not to return after maternity leave. Therefore, the registered manager position is currently vacant. Following the full inspection on 10 May 2022, the interim manager resigned, and a new temporary manager has been in place since 13 June 2022.

Inspection date: 21 June 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, under which no further children can be moved into the home, was also issued.

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

A substantial redesign of the interior of the home has taken place. This has provided noticeable improvements to the living area for children. The annex building is now used solely as a recreational and educational space for children. There are no plans to use the annex as alternative sleeping accommodation for children. Managers have relocated their office to the main building. The layout in the main building has changed to accommodate a larger and more suitable living room. This has been enhanced by the removal of an internal wall. Carpet and curtains have been fitted to

create a homely environment. The dining area has noticeably improved, with evidence of communal living. Breakfast dishes and cereal boxes were laid out on the dining table ready for when children get up. Steps have been taken to address the overall living space to ensure a communal area for children and increase the presence of managers in the home.

The provider has failed to demonstrate that sufficient action and intervention have been made in a timely manner to address the compliance notices in relation to safeguarding and the protection of children standard, and care planning for independence and transition arrangements.

There have been recent changes to the management structure. An interim manager was appointed on 13 June 2022. The manager has applied to Ofsted to be registered. The manager provided an outline action plan to address concerns from the previous inspection.

The manager plans to improve the skills and experience of the team under new leadership and management. Refresher safeguarding training is scheduled to ensure that staff understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children. A review of safeguarding policies and procedures is planned. Risk assessments and behaviour management strategies are under review. However, the provider has failed to take immediate and effective action to ensure that the steps in the compliance notice have been fully met.

The provider has developed a pre-planning document to use to assess the suitability of children moving into the home. However, the document focuses heavily on the views of the local authority social worker. It fails to ensure a multi-agency and holistic view from all key professionals. Consequently, the provider is unable to obtain a balanced and comprehensive overview of suitable placements and matching of children.

Behaviour management strategies are yet to be reviewed to evaluate their effectiveness. Therefore, children continue to live in a home where structures and boundaries are not fully implemented to manage their behaviours and keep them safe. One child continues to display challenging behaviour in the home. There is noticeable damage to internal doors.

There have been two overnight missing-from-care episodes. One incident involved a child leaving through a bathroom window in the early hours. Staff were not aware of this until the morning when they were contacted by a person who was aware the child was not at the home. Staff implemented missing-from-care procedures to locate the child. The bathroom window now has a suitable window restrictor, having previously not been identified as a risk. Greater oversight by staff is required to ensure that children can be kept safe.

One child has received an appropriate assessment with child and adolescent mental health services. Although the child has not engaged further with external professionals, staff are continuing to follow the recommendations provided by the service. This ensures that the child develops emotional resilience that aims to help him to manage difficult emotions and develop helpful coping strategies. Staff have completed key-work sessions on sexual health and provided information on age-appropriate consent to ensure that children have a good understanding of healthy sexual relationships.

The transition plan for one child who is scheduled to move in September does not include a clear pathway plan, although there has been some consultation with their placing authority. Decisions in relation to independence plans do not consider the views of the placing authority and lack consultation with the child's social worker. The provider was unable to fully demonstrate that effective planning ensures a positive transition and outcome for the child.

Current care planning arrangements do not properly support staff to provide effectively planned care in the home. A failure to action care plans effectively means that staff do not meet the needs of the children or have any understanding of how they will safely support and care for children.

Two new compliance notices have been issued in relation to regulation 12 and regulation 14 respectively.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose; that arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	5 August 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. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—	5 August 2022

lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; 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; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; and feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; 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)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(i)(ii)(h))	
*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; help each child to understand how to keep safe;	5 August 2022

have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; 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 effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(e))	
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	5 August 2022

that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(iii)(vii)(b))	
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 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))	5 August 2022
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;	5 August 2022

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—

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))

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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)

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: Post vacant

Inspector

Kamal Bhamra, Social Care Inspector

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