

2594189

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and run by a local authority. It provides care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

Three children were living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2023.

Inspection date: 20 February 2024

Date of last inspection: 26 September 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children develop positive and trusting relationships with staff and enjoy living in the home. When children move into the home, they settle quickly because of the efforts staff make to welcome them. Staff make every effort to get to know all the children well and learn about what matters to them the most. As a result, children quickly begin to trust staff and develop a strong sense of belonging.

Children have a voice in the running of their home. They have regular consultations with staff. Children are helped to rebuild and maintain their relationships with their families. Staff facilitate these arrangements. This approach works well and means that children can safely spend time with members of their family. This builds children's sense of identity and self-esteem.

Children's health needs are well promoted by staff. Some children have complex medical histories. Staff work closely with medical professionals who contribute to children's care planning. This helps staff to provide highly effective care and ensure that children's health is promoted well in the home.

Children develop life skills in the home. They are supported with cleaning, shopping, cooking and other general life skills. This means that children are well prepared for later life.

Since the last inspection, the registered manager has been committed to ensuring that children's safety is prioritised. Detailed risk management plans identify the children's risks and vulnerabilities. These documents are regularly updated in response to any concerns. This ensures that staff can keep children safe.

Children's behaviour has become increasingly settled in the home. Staff now understand children's behaviour and what it means. As a result, staff can better respond to the children if their behaviour becomes difficult to manage. There has been a notable reduction of incidents since the last inspection and no use of any physical intervention. This demonstrates that the plans are effective.

Children's risks are reducing. This is testimony to the positive relationships they have with staff, which helps them to feel safe and secure. Since the last inspection, there have been no incidents of children going missing from home. However, staff continue to educate children on the potential dangers of going missing.

The registered manager is skilled and experienced in their role and leads the staff team to provide a good standard of care for children. The registered manager has a wide range of tools in place to monitor children's progress, staff performance and the overall quality of care that children receive. External monitoring by the

independent visitor provides further assurance that the home is now providing good-quality care to children.

Staff receive regular reflective supervision sessions and team meetings. The registered manager ensures that staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to care for children effectively. Training records are up to date and additional training is sought to provide training that is specific to the needs of the children in the home. This ensures that children work with staff who are equipped to meet their needs.

Education attendance for children is variable. For one child, leaders and managers have not ensured that the multi-agency targeted support is provided to the child to enable them to return to formal education. This means that the child is missing opportunities to achieve positive educational outcomes.

Leaders and managers have addressed all the requirements made at the last inspection. However, a new requirement has been raised following this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/09/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
21/11/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/09/2021	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 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 person must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; and understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii))	10 May 2024

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2594189

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Registered provider address: Civic Offices, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes DN35 8LN

Responsible individual: Sandra Snell

Registered manager: Grace Rouse

Inspector

Evelyn Chafota, Social Care Inspector

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