

2594189

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority owns and runs this home. The home provides care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

There were two children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The home has a new manager, who has not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 26 and 27 September 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 21 November 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/11/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/09/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

Children's day-to-day experiences vary. Children have recently gone through a period of instability, which has led to significant incidents in the home. Staff have struggled to positively influence the children's behaviour on such occasions, and incidents have exposed children to harm. The failure of staff to respond to children's behaviour does not give assurances that children are safeguarded effectively.

Staff consult with children about the day-to-day running of the home and decisions about their care. This is done through regular meetings and direct, focused work with children. When children make complaints, these are appropriately investigated. This assures children that their views are important.

Staff prioritise children's education. They understand the importance of working with education providers and allocated teaching staff to address the challenges children face. The staff work closely with these professionals to identify and fully assess children's learning needs. This helps to determine any additional support children may need to help them reach their full potential.

Children's emotional and physical health needs are met. Staff support the children to live healthy lifestyles and to attend their medical and healthcare appointments. This ensures that good health is maintained.

Staff support children to build positive memories of their stay in the home. A variety of activities are offered to children to encourage them to enjoy their leisure time. Some children prefer to stay home despite encouragement from staff to have new experiences in the community. Children are supported to keep in touch with their families if it is safe to do so, which promotes children's identity and well-being.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Risk-management systems are inconsistent. Not all strategies in place ensure that children are consistently safeguarded from harm. However, the new manager has reviewed children's risk assessments and behaviour-management plans to ensure that staff are clear on what action they should take to better protect children from harm.

Not all incidents have management oversight. In addition, the recording of some incidents is not clear and has insufficient information regarding the events. The lack of detail and clarity means it is not clear whether staff safeguard children and promote their well-being effectively.

The dynamics between children in the home have been difficult. When children are unkind to each other, the staff identify and address this immediately. Children are supported to learn to be kind to each other, and helped to understand why bullying behaviour is not acceptable. This helps the children to develop socially acceptable behaviour.

When children are absent from the home without permission, staff follow the appropriate safeguarding guidelines. Staff spend time talking with the children following any missing-from-home incidents so that children have an opportunity to talk about their experiences. This reinforces to children that the staff care about them.

Staff recruitment is effective and helps to prevent the employment of unsuitable people to work with children. Leaders and managers carry out all necessary employment checks and verify these checks before staff work in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

Since the last inspection, the registered manager has left the home. They did not have sufficient oversight of the service, and did not use the available internal auditing tools to monitor or review staff practice, shortfalls in children's care, records and documents. However, the new manager has taken steps to address this. The new manager is in the process of registering with Ofsted.

The previous manager failed to notify Ofsted of a serious incident that placed a child at risk of harm. This prevented Ofsted from ensuring that management oversight of the incident had taken place to prevent harm to the child.

Staff attend regular team meetings, training and supervision sessions to help them to reflect on and develop their practice. These are used as an opportunity to share learning and improve practice. Staff spoke highly of the support they receive from their colleagues and said that they feel like part of a team.

The manager uses external monitoring by the independent visitor to review the quality of care and the progress of the children. The independent visitor's monitoring provides challenge to the manager. The manager and staff have good working relationships with other professionals and with children's families. This supports partnership working and means that children's welfare is promoted.

Staff at the home have positive relationships with social workers, teachers and other agencies. This provides children with joined-up care and support.

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 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 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(b))	8 December 2023
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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))	8 December 2023
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the child's placing authority is contacted, and a review of that child's relevant plans is requested, if—	8 December 2023

the registered person considers that the child is at risk of harm or has concerns that the care provided for the child is inadequate to meet the child's needs. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(e)(i))	
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))	8 December 2023

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This 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 The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

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, Lincolnshire
DN35 8LN

Responsible individual: Sandra Snell

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Evelyn Chafota, Social Care Inspector

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