

2599994

Registered provider: Hull City Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority run home providing care for one child. Since the last inspection, one child has left the home and one child has moved in to the home.

The manager has her level 5 diploma and registered with Ofsted in July 2020. The manager is also the registered manager at another home.

Inspection date: 1 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 31 October 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector evaluated:

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

Inspectors have 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 identified the following serious concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection:

- The provider is imposing greater restrictions on the child's liberty than those agreed in the court-ordered documents.
- The provider has failed to escalate concerns to the court in order for appropriate amendments to be made.
- The manager does not have a system in place to review staff practice and plans to ensure that they are acting in line with the court-ordered document, which prevents her from identifying when this needs to be escalated.

The care of children

The child currently living in this home is restricted in their movements by a court order due to high levels of presenting risk. However, the provider is imposing restrictions greater than those allowed by the court order in place. The staff are creative in how they offer experiences to the child within the confinements of these restrictions. However, these restrictions limit the quality of life that the child experiences.

The manager advocates and challenges for the child's needs to be met by other agencies, such as mental health services. Support from the mental health services is in place for the staff. However, the child is not receiving the full support that they need from these other agencies.

The child's voice is valued, and efforts are taken to act on their wishes. When this is not possible, the child understands the reasons for this. The manager puts in place plans to help the child to achieve their goals.

Both children who have lived in this home since the last inspection have forged positive relationships with staff. The children are able to seek support and advice from staff and trust them to help them.

When the previous child who lived in this home moved out, this was a well-thought-out, planned transition back to their family in line with her wishes. Staff built positive relationships with family and remain a source of support and advice for them all.

The safety of children

The provider has failed to ensure that the restrictions imposed on the child's liberty are in line with the court agreed Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) order. The provider has also failed to confirm that the information on the DoL order is correct. Greater restrictions are being imposed in order to keep the child safe. However, this has not been escalated to the court in order for the appropriate amendments to be made to

the order. This means that the child is being restricted more than is agreed by the court. This also prevents the court from having oversight as to the long-term sustainability of risk management and quality of life for the child.

Risk management plans are informative and a one-page summary of how to support the child helps to ensure that staff are consistent in how they respond to the child. This helps to create stability for the child. However, the care plan for the child is not up to date and contains some information that is contradictory to the current plans that, if followed, would put the child at risk of harm.

When a child is held, this is as a last resort to help to safeguard them, staff and others. The manager reviews these incidents and ensures that staff receive debriefs to identify any learning. Attempts are made to speak to the child, but this is not consistently recorded.

Room searches take place in line with risk assessments in order to safeguard the child. The searches are effective in identifying and removing anything that may be used by the child to cause harm to themselves or others. This is discussed with the child to ensure that they understand the reasons why and to gather their views.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The provider has failed to ensure that incidents and plans in place are reviewed to ensure that actions are in line with the DoL order in place. This prevents the registered manager from identifying if any changes are needed and ensuring that these are escalated to the court.

The home is currently operating with a high number of agency staff in order to meet the child's needs. The agency staff are experienced in their role and are very much a part of the staff team. The manager ensures that it is the same agency staff working with the child, to promote consistency.

The staff feel well supported by the registered manager and 'senior care worker'. They value the time to discuss their feelings during supervision, team meetings, and meetings with the mental health team. This helps them to remain motivated to support the child despite their anxieties and concerns.

The manager is child focused and has shared her concerns regarding the impact that the level of restrictions is having on the child, including the long-term sustainability of this. She is actively seeking support in the interim to try to put plans in place to improve the child's quality of life.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/07/2022	Full	Inadequate
01/02/2022	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
01/09/2021	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 persons 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 persons 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— 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi))	16 April 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)) In particular, ensure that systems are in place to review incidents and changes to plans in line with any court-ordered documents to ensure that actions in place align with this. Ensure that any changes needed are escalated and the changes made.	16 April 2023

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that if a child is restrained a record is made of the attempts made to ascertain the child's wishes and feelings, even if they decline to engage. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 50, paragraph 9.60)
- The registered person should ensure that no more than half of the staff on duty at any one time, by day or night, at the home should be from an external agency. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.17)
- The registered person should ensure that children's care plans are kept up to date and that information aligns with that in other plans. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.3)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2599994

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hull City Council

Registered provider address: Kingston upon Hull City Council, The Guildhall,
Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AA

Responsible individual: Michele Colthup

Registered manager: Charlene Martin

Inspector

Debra Boldy, Social Care Inspector

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