

2615067

Northamptonshire Childrens Trust limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority home that is registered to care for seven children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home has recently been re-registered because of a change in the local authority operational structure. However, this organisational change has not impacted the day-to-day operation of the home.

Inspection date: 12 November 2020

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was conducted to review a restriction notice that Ofsted imposed on the home. This restriction notice was imposed in response to serious and widespread shortfalls that were identified during Ofsted's assurance visit to the home in September 2020.

The management and staff have worked hard to address the shortfalls. They have made a lot of progress. As a result, the restriction notice has been lifted so that the home can now admit more young people. However, requirements made at the last visit remain because the developing culture and practice is not yet fully embedded. The requirements will be reviewed again at Ofsted's next visit.

A new impact risk assessment has been developed that is more in-depth and is likely to provide managers with better information about young people who are referred for admission. Senior leaders are now committed to involving the registered manager fully in decision-making processes about admissions. Additionally, senior managers are now committed to admitting young people in a planned way to ensure that disruption to existing residents is minimised. Because the restriction notice has prevented new young people from moving into the home, these new systems have not yet been tested.

Staff are working their way through an intensive training programme, which has included training about criminal exploitation. Therefore, staff now have the necessary skills and knowledge to address any challenges presented when new young people are admitted to the home. Staff are much more child-focussed and provide a more therapeutic approach to young people.

One young person is preparing to move out of the home. Staff have listened and responded to the views of the young person. As a result, a good transition plan has been implemented. This is likely to help the young person to settle quickly into her new home.

Young people are now more settled. A young person said that she is happy in the home and gets on well with the staff and other young people. However, because of new recording systems, staff spend more time in the office, which she does not like. Managers agreed that this could easily be resolved by providing staff with a laptop to enable them to complete their electronic records while they are with the young people. However, staff and young people say that the internet access is poor.

Safeguarding concerns are addressed quickly and appropriately. However, a safeguarding concern was not reported to managers in a timely manner. This had the potential to leave young people vulnerable over a weekend. New reporting systems have been implemented and staff now have a better understanding of whistle-blowing procedures.

Recent inspection history

N/A

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 of 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— understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children. (Regulation 11 (1)(2)(a)(ix))	31/01/2021
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. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a))	31/01/2021
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—	31/01/2021

that staff— 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. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(iii)(iv))	
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— promotes their welfare. (Regulation 13 (1)(b))	31/01/2021

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: 2615067

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Northamptonshire Childrens Trust limited

Registered provider address: Northamptonshire County Council, One Angel Square, Northampton NN1 1ED

Responsible individual: Christina Skeel

Registered manager: Nicola Ahern

Inspector

Joanne Vyas, Social Care Inspector

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