

2633744

Registered provider: Ivory Cottage Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private company. It provides care for up to three children who may have experienced childhood instability resulting in trauma and associated complex behaviours.

The registered manager post has been vacant since January 2023. A new manager is in post who has applied to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 5 January 2024

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was conducted due to the police raising concerns with Ofsted about children going missing from the home and the ability of staff to manage and respond to children's escalating behaviour.

Since the last inspection, there has been an increase in one child going missing from the home. When the staff have been aware that the child has gone missing, staff have followed the child's missing-from-care protocols and the child has returned to the home. However, on one occasion the child was able to leave the home during the night without the knowledge of the staff. On this occasion, the child was able to board a train and travel over 150 miles away from the home.

Following this missing-from-home episode, the manager failed to put in place sufficient safeguarding measures to reduce the likelihood that the child would be able to leave the home during the night without staff being aware. During the inspection, the manager addressed this shortfall. This ensured that an appropriate risk reduction measure was in place to support the safety of the child.

The manager did not demonstrate a clear understanding of how the child was able to leave the home without staff knowing. In part, this is because the manager had

not undertaken an internal review of what had happened. This was a missed opportunity to identify and address shortfalls in staff practice and review risk reduction measures.

Staff do not always manage children's behaviour effectively. On one occasion when a child was highly anxious and upset, staff responses resulted in the child's behaviour escalating and the child and staff being placed in an unsafe situation. Staff called the police for assistance and the child was arrested and cautioned.

Inspectors observed positive interactions between the children and the staff. Children enjoy a range of activities. This has included going to go-karting and a museum visit. Children say that they enjoy having the opportunity to take part in different activities.

The action taken by managers to meet the statutory requirements issued at the last inspection will be reviewed at the home's next inspection. These requirements these have been restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/09/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/11/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/02/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
24/11/2021	Full	Inadequate

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, The 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 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. Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)) This specifically relates to staff understanding and implementing children's risk assessments, their monitoring and supervision of children and their role in keeping children safe.	6 February 2024
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— 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 have the experience, qualifications and	24 January 2024

skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for 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; 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)(c)(f)(h)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that there are stable and suitable management arrangements in place and that there is effective oversight of the quality of care for children.	
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 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 plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child’s placing authority. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that there is an effective planning and admission protocol that is implemented in practice.	24 January 2024

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; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; maintain regular contact with each child’s education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child’s education and training and to maximise the child’s achievement; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child’s relevant plans; and that each child has access to appropriate equipment, facilities and resources to support the child’s learning. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(x)(b)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that children are offered and access suitable education provision.	24 January 2024
---	------------------------

The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that staff receive regular, good-quality, reflective supervision.	24 January 2024
--	------------------------

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: 2633744

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Ivory Cottage Ltd

Registered provider address: Skytax, 37th Floor, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AA

Responsible individual: Lynn Fields

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Lydia Isaac, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024