

2711614

Registered provider: Unity Residential Care Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run home provides care for up to four children with social and emotional difficulties.

A manager has been appointed and has applied to register with Ofsted.

At the time of this visit, one child was living at the home. This child has moved into the home since the last full inspection.

Inspection date: 29 August 2024

This monitoring visit

Ofsted carried out a full inspection on 16 and 17 July 2024. The inspection identified widespread and serious shortfalls which resulted in the home being judged inadequate. Two compliance notices were issued, under regulation 12, the protection of children standard, and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. At this monitoring visit, the compliance notice raised under regulation 12 was deemed to have been met. However, the compliance notice raised under regulation 13 has been reissued.

Leaders have made good progress in addressing some shortfalls that were identified at the last inspection. However, some of these improvements are still in their infancy and some areas of practice remain fragile.

Leaders have ensured that there is now an appropriate statement of purpose. This document is clear and thorough and outlines the vision for keeping children safe. Records are now contained in one database which gives managers and staff easier access to key information. The independent visitor has improved their regular reports about the home and makes clear recommendations.

Leaders and managers have improved their recruitment processes. This includes verbal feedback being sought during the recruitment process.

Leaders have implemented a series of training workshops to address specific areas of concern identified at the last inspection. These include topics such as the process to follow when children go missing from the home, the role of the key worker and developing professional curiosity.

Leaders have scheduled training for staff about restraint and approaches to de-escalation, to ensure that staff have the right level of knowledge and skills in behaviour management.

Staff are beginning to have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities and children's vulnerabilities. Staff now manage incidents better and are using agreed strategies to de-escalate incidents.

Team meetings are now taking place. These are well attended by staff. Managers set a clear agenda that is relevant to the needs of the child.

Managers are ensuring that staff receive supervision. Managers are not yet consistently recording these meetings. However, when records are completed, the quality of these records has improved.

Despite the improvements found, there are continued shortfalls. Managers have not yet ensured that the recording and reporting of incidents is consistent, or that Ofsted is routinely informed of serious incidents. In addition, managers cannot yet be assured that every member of staff follows procedures to safeguard the child in the home. Leaders and managers have not yet strengthened their engagement with local partners, including the community safety police team and local authorities.

The home environment is not yet safe and secure. For example, leaders have not fully risk assessed access to the roof.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2024	Full	Inadequate
05/12/2023	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(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 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; 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)(f)(h)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	20 October 2024
If the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	20 October 2024

The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—

- a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;
- an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;
- there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;
- a child protection enquiry involving a child —
- is instigated; or
- concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or
- there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.

A notification made under this regulation—

- must include details of—
- the matter;
- the other persons, bodies or organisations (if any) who or which have been notified; and
- any actions taken by the registered person as a result of the matter;

must be made or confirmed in writing.

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20 October 2024

(Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e) (5)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(b)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
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 premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d)) In particular, leaders and managers must fully risk assess access to the roof.	20 October 2024

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: 2711614

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Unity Residential Care Ltd

Registered provider address: Unity Residential Care Ltd, 30 Chadwell Avenue,
Romford RM6 4QH

Responsible individual: Nasae Evanson

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Monique Lindsay, Social Care Inspector
Naintara Khosla, Social Care Inspector

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