

2785671

Registered provider: City of York

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home was registered with Ofsted in April 2024. The service is a multi-building children's home with two premises, with one overall judgement that covers the registered children's home and considers the experiences and progress of children in each of the home's buildings.

The home is owned by the local authority. The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2024.

The home is registered to provide care for up to six children, between both buildings, who may have social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the inspection, there were four children living in the home. Two children were spoken to during the inspection.

Inspection date: 19 March 2025

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 14, 15 and 16 January 2025. Serious and widespread concerns were found in relation to the safety and well-being of children. This visit was to monitor the action taken by the provider to meet the steps within the compliance notice that was issued relating to regulation 12.

Individual children's risk assessments outline known individual risks for children and clear strategies staff should follow to manage the identified risks. Plans include how to support children before they reach crisis, and include information such as not to use humour with a particular child because this is likely to be unhelpful. However, there continues to be a lack of risk assessment to consider how risks may change when children are together and outline how this dynamic will be safely managed.

The challenging dynamics have resulted in doors being locked inside the home, one of the doors being locked is to ensure children have spaces they feel safe in. Due to

the lack of clear assessment and planning around the dynamics, the only plan in place to address this, is one child moving out of the home.

Risk assessments include safety planning, where appropriate, including specifically relating to health needs arising from children using substances. Plans relating to when children use substances are being followed and children receive medical care when this is required.

Conversations with children around pertinent worries take place. Some of these conversations are detailed and appear to support children to understand and manage risks better. Staff shared that they understand the importance of building positive relationships with children and ensuring important conversations take place with the right person, at the right time. Staff know children well and they understand how to support them. Staff are committed to children being able to remain living in the home, until they have identified safe plans for children's next steps.

Staff have replaced dining room chairs, allowing space for children to eat meals together. However, the inside of some parts of the home continue to lack a homely feel. There were several obscene pictures drawn on the walls in communal areas, and an insult about a member of staff had been written on the door to the room where staff sleep. A child's door had several rules written directly onto the door, and some of the plaster around doors was coming away. Damage to doors, caused in previous incidents, has been crudely repaired with ill-fitting boards.

One child's bedroom was unhygienic, with mouldy fruit and dirty plates on the floor. This created an unpleasant smell. This, alongside lots of the child's belongings on the floor, meant the child lacked their own clean space to spend time in. It was not clear what the expectation was for staff to support children with their rooms and when to intervene.

Ofsted was not notified of a serious incident. This prevents the regulator from having a clear understanding of how the provider responds to safeguarding concerns.

One child was able to reflect on the progress they have made, with the support of the in-house clinician. This is facilitated with great thought by the staff. The child feels safe living in the home. Another child felt that some decisions about family members attending the home were unfair but was able to discuss this with staff that were supportive.

Staff shared that they value clinical supervision, which is provided by the in-house clinician. Staff felt they were able to be reflective.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/01/2025	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 with 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; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iv)(vi)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that consideration is given to how risks to children may change depending on which children live in the home, and how any negative aspects are managed safely to prevent any negative impact on other children.	21 April 2025
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— understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each	21 April 2025

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)(f)(h))	
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children’s homes overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children’s needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purpose of the home are designed and furnished so as to— enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(ii))	21 April 2025
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))	21 April 2025

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: 2785671

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: City of York

Registered provider address: West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

Responsible individual: Michael Cavan

Registered manager: Bethany Gamble

Inspector

Joanna Beal, Social Care Inspector

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