

2786471

Registered provider: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by the local authority. It is registered to provide care for up to three children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home has a new manager who submitted their application to register with Ofsted on 3 February 2025.

Inspection date: 23 January 2025

This monitoring visit

At the full inspection on 3 and 4 October 2024, the home was judged inadequate. The inspector found serious and widespread failures in relation to keeping children safe. They also found that the leadership and management of the home were poor. The registered manager was absent from work due to sickness. The responsible individual was not present during the inspection.

As a result of the full inspection, Ofsted imposed a condition on the home's registration. This meant that the provider had to give Ofsted three months' notice of its intention to welcome new children into the home. The reasons for this were:

- Concerns about the leadership and management arrangements.
- There was an insufficient number of staff and a lack of untrained staff to operate the home safely.
- The provider had no plans for children to move into the home for a period of time.
- Managers planned to review the failings before accepting children into the home.

The provider notified Ofsted on 16 January 2025 of its intention to admit children. The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the home's readiness to open.

The home has a new qualified and experienced responsible individual and a new manager.

Leaders and managers have undertaken a full learning review of the failures identified at the previous inspection, which demonstrates lessons learned. They have also introduced improved monitoring systems. This will enable them to review the quality of care children receive and their progress. They have also recruited a new independent visitor.

Managers have reviewed the home's admissions process. This includes carrying out and implementing various risk assessments before and after children move in and considering staff skills and abilities. The home's clinical team and senior management will also have oversight.

Managers have reviewed the home's policies and procedures. Staff have completed extensive training in relation to safeguarding and reporting and recording, in addition to how they will safely support children's behaviour. Staff have also gone through the home's induction process again.

All staff recruitment files have been reviewed. All managers and staff are safely recruited. However, one staff member is currently suspended. This relates to circumstances outside of the home. The responsible individual has liaised with the local authority designated officer regarding this.

The home has enough staff with the appropriate training to safely meet the needs of one child. Managers do not intend to admit additional children until they have more staff.

As a result of this visit, Ofsted lifted the three-month condition. However, it will continue to monitor the home closely. Some of the requirements made at the last inspection are outside the scope of this visit and are restated. These will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/10/2024	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 children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— develop positive relationships with them; engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that regular consultation with children takes place about their experiences living in the home, including after incidents. The registered person must ensure that children are heard and understood.	9 April 2025

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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;

help each child to understand how to keep safe;

have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;

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; and

are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies;

that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm.

(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b))

In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff protect children from harm. They must understand their roles and responsibilities to protect children and take action to prevent children from being harmed.

The registered person must ensure that children's risk assessments contain accurate information about known risks and clear guidance for staff to follow to keep children safe. This must include when children spend time with their family and when they spend time in the community.

The registered person must ensure that they speak to all children living in the home after incidents, to ascertain their views, wishes and feelings. They must ensure that children's

experiences are listened to, and that action is taken to ensure they are adequately supported.	
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 work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to 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; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; and 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)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(ii)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that there is effective management oversight of the home. They must ensure that the quality of care children receive is	9 April 2025

continuously monitored. This includes senior oversight of children's care plans and how they are being implemented and monitored by the manager and staff. The registered person must develop effective monitoring and review systems. They must ensure that staff understand the quality of care to be provided to children and their experiences and take swift action to address any identified shortfalls. The registered person must ensure that staff receive adequate training which equips them with the skills to meet the needs of the children they care for. They must ensure that the effectiveness of training in staff practice is monitored and evaluated.	
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; 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 that each child's relevant plans are followed; that the child's placing authority is contacted, and a review of that child's relevant plans is requested, if the registered person considers that the child is at risk of harm or has concerns that the care provided for the child is inadequate to meet the child's needs. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(d)(f)(i))	9 April 2025

In particular, children's needs must be thoroughly considered before they move into the home, along with the stability and sufficiency of the staff team and their skills.	
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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: 2786471

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sarah Berry, Social Care Inspector

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