

SC003792

Registered Provider: Lifeworks Charity Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a charitable trust. It provides care for up to 10 children who may have sensory impairment, learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities. This includes up to four residential and six short-break places. Currently, two children live in the home, and 12 children visit for short breaks.

The registered manager post has been vacant since January 2023. A manager was appointed in March 2023. They have withdrawn their application to register with Ofsted following a decision by the provider to close the home.

Inspection date: 8 August 2023

This monitoring visit

Serious concerns in relation to the care or protection of children were identified at the assurance inspection that was carried out on 29 June 2023. Following this inspection, a compliance notice relating to the quality and purpose of care standard was issued. This monitoring visit was completed to review the actions taken by the provider to address the compliance notice.

Since the last inspection, the registered provider has notified Ofsted of its intention to close the home at the end of October 2023.

At this visit, concerns in relation to the care and/or protection of children were identified, and the compliance notice is not met.

Leaders and managers have failed to implement actions to improve all areas of the home environment for children. Some new furnishings have been provided for children, and wallpaper has been repaired. Other areas of the home have not been improved, including flooring that is worn or marked, one child's bed that is scuffed and a child's sofa that has torn fabric. Outside areas are not well maintained and are

not welcoming spaces for children to enjoy. A recommendation made from a fire risk assessment relating to the home environment has not progressed.

Shortfalls relating to the leadership and management of the home remain. Leaders and managers have failed to ensure that there is sufficient oversight of children's daily care and safety. Subsequently, managers have failed to identify discrepancies recorded relating to one child being administered paracetamol.

Leaders and managers have failed to implement systems to ensure that the quality of care is monitored effectively. When incidents occur, staff interventions that keep children safe are recorded and children's views are gathered. A new system in place has increased oversight of incidents. However, daily records fail to include the actions that staff take to ensure that children are cared for safely in times of distress.

Staff use communication aids effectively to understand children's wishes about the activities that they would like to participate in, and they are involved with the decoration of rooms in the home. Photos of children enjoying activities are included in individual books, which are shared with their families.

Additional training to enhance staff's skills and improve responses to children has not yet been received by all staff members, and supervision sessions are not carried out regularly. This limits opportunities to promote consistent care. Staff have provided their feedback to managers about the quality of care. However, comprehensive reviews to identify themes and implement any actions are not yet carried out.

There have been no changes in staffing arrangements, and there are no plans for new children to move into the home or attend for short breaks. Managers have notified children's families of their intention to close the home. They are liaising with children's placing authorities to identify alternative care and support provisions.

Following this visit, a new compliance notice has been issued relating to the quality of care provided to children. Ofsted will visit the home to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the home in due course.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
21/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/06/2021	Full	Good
03/12/2019	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, 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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's 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— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; protect and promote each child's welfare; provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(vii)) In particular, the registered provider must take urgent action to review the home environment to ensure that decoration and furnishings are suitable and that the premises provide a welcoming environment for children. Additionally, the registered provider must improve and increase management oversight in the home to ensure that children are cared for safely. A clear system for recording and reviewing children's care effectively must be implemented.	8 September 2023

*These requirements are subject of 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: SC003792

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lifeworks Charity Limited

Registered provider address: Lescaze Offices Room, 33 Shinnars Bridge,
Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6JD

Responsible individual: Laura Fraser-Crewes

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Louise Bacon, Social Care Inspector

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