

SC033127

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and run by a local authority. It provides care for up to 11 children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The home is divided into three smaller homes. Two of these provide long-term care, and one provides short-break services. At the time of this inspection, four children lived in the home permanently.

The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2023.

Inspection date: 7 February 2024

Date of last inspection: 17 October 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The appointment of a new registered manager has had a positive effect on the home and the outcomes for children. Children's overall experiences have improved, and they are making good progress. The staff take time to build nurturing relationships with all the children. They create a welcoming family atmosphere that promotes dignity, respect and positive parenting. As a result, the children are happy, feel safe and are settled.

Children's bedrooms are personalised based on their individual needs, wishes and feelings. Bedrooms for children who stay for short breaks are already prepared before their arrival. This helps children to develop a sense of belonging.

Staff understand children's physical and emotional health needs. When appropriate, staff work with other agencies and health professionals to ensure that children can access the services they need. This ensures that children's health needs are met.

Children make progress in education. Staff encourage children to attend school regularly, stressing the importance of continual learning. Children are supported to see their families and friends. As a result, children do not feel isolated from people who are important to them, and they maintain significant relationships.

The registered manager ensures that children's risk assessments identify known risks to children's safety and detail the strategies in place for staff to use to help keep children safe. The staffing levels are adapted accordingly to support individual children if risks to their safety increase. This ensures that children are safeguarded effectively.

There have not been any incidents of physical intervention since the last inspection. The registered manager now reviews significant events and any incidents of concern. This clear management oversight ensures that children receive good-quality care.

Staff can identify the progress that has been made since the registered manager's appointment. Staff feel supported by the registered manager and are confident to seek advice and support. The staff now benefit from regular reflective supervision sessions and team meetings.

The registered manager has developed systems to monitor the performance of staff and how effective the home is. However, despite this, there are shortfalls in one area that leaders and managers have not addressed fully.

Four requirements were raised at the last inspection. Leaders and managers have addressed three of these requirements. One requirement has not been sufficiently met and has therefore been restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/10/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/10/2022	Full	Good
14/07/2021	Full	Good
21/01/2020	Full	Requires improvement to be good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	30 April 2024

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC033127

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Registered provider address: Civic Offices, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes DN35 8LN

Responsible individual: Sandra Snell

Registered manager: Vanessa Metcalfe

Inspectors

Evelyn Chafota, Social Care Inspector

Gina Lightfoot, Social Care Inspector

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