

SC033127

North East Lincolnshire Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a local authority. It provides care for up to 11 children with physical or learning disabilities.

At the time of the visit, the home was providing care for four children. The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2023 and is appropriately qualified.

This visit was carried out to address specific concerns following the full inspection on 30 April 2024.

Inspection date: 20 June 2024

This monitoring visit

Following the full inspection, this home was judged inadequate. One compliance notice was issued under Regulation 12 (the protection of children standard). This was because of serious concerns relating to the safety and protection of children. The purpose of this visit was to review the progress and actions taken by the provider to meet the compliance notice.

Leaders and managers have reviewed how children's risk assessments are updated and accessible to staff. The documents are detailed, reviewed regularly and identify the actions for staff to take should risks be identified. Staff take responsibility for reading children's risk assessments before starting their shift. Staff spoken to were knowledgeable about the risks for the children, how to locate the risk assessment and the actions they should take to manage emerging risks.

The registered manager has adapted the monthly audit to include staff's knowledge of risk. This means that the registered manager can be assured that staff know the risks identified for each child. Staff have received a one-off supervision session with leaders and managers to ensure that they are aware of the new process for

accessing the risk assessments. This means that staff working with children in the home are knowledgeable about children's risks and the actions they should take to safeguard them.

Staff receive regular supervision. This means that staff are provided with opportunities to reflect on their practice. Leaders and managers can review staff's actions to ensure that they are in keeping with risk assessments. This ensures that leaders and managers can recognise, challenge and address any shortfalls in practice.

Leaders and managers have supported one child to move to another placement where their needs can be met safely. This has reduced the risk identified at the full inspection of children posing a risk to each other. A multi-agency approach was provided to ensure a safe transition period for the child to the new placement and to support the other children returning safely to their home. This transition has been completed, and children living at the home feel happy and safe.

Leaders and managers have made changes to increase safety in the home. Staff have been provided with close-fitting bags to carry fobs and keys in to ensure safe storage. This prevents keys and other equipment from being visible to children or carried in places where they could easily be misplaced or cause an injury if taken by a child.

Oxygen tanks required to manage some children's health needs now have their own safe storage area. There is appropriate signage to identify the flammable risk, and the tanks are no longer stored outside where they are open to the weather. The tanks have their own secure cage and a stand to prevent them from falling over. Fire extinguishers in the home are appropriately placed and secured back on the walls. In the event of an emergency, these are easily accessible to staff to support children exiting the home safely and quickly.

Home conditions have improved. Some damage has been repaired and soft furnishings have been purchased. One child has had flooring replaced and a new sofa. The outside space has been made safe so that it is a usable area for children to use. It is acknowledged that there are some outstanding repairs and work required in the home. However, there is a system in place regarding ongoing repairs and replacement items being tracked and any lack of progress being challenged, where necessary. The home is now a more homely environment for children to live in.

Following this visit, it was determined that the compliance notice has been met and the changes required to satisfy regulation 25 have also been addressed. The requirements previously issued under regulations 13, 14, 11 and 35 were not reviewed during this visit. For this reason, they are restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/04/2024	Full	Inadequate
17/10/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/10/2022	Full	Good
14/07/2021	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 with 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 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(d)(e))	11 August 2024
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 arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(i)(c))	11 August 2024

The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same; de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(iv)(x)(xi))	11 August 2024
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so (“the authorised person”)— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and	11 August 2024

within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(v)(b)(i)(ii)(c))

In particular, support children to talk about their feelings. Following incidents, ensure that feedback is sought from children and staff and that learning takes place.

Recommendation

- The registered person should provide a children's guide for all children in the home. This should be accessible to the children who live in the home, considering their communication needs. It should be kept under regular review with the statement of purpose, and any changes should be explained. ('Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards', page 24, paragraphs 4.21, 4.22 and 4.23)

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: 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

Kate Jackson, Social Care Inspector
Ladean Wilson, Social Care Inspector

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