

SC033326

Registered provider: Kirklees Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The children's home is owned and operated by a local authority. The home provides care for children with behavioural and/or emotional difficulties. The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2013.

Inspection date: 6 January 2022

Date of last inspection: 13 September 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has declined in effectiveness.

Staff have failed to manage children's behaviour to prevent them from damaging the home. Children have kicked holes in walls and broken doors. The registered manager has boarded up the damage. However, the environment is not yet at an acceptable standard.

During one incident, children were able to reach into a bedroom and take a child's personal possessions. One child has not felt safe living in the home because of repeated damage to her bedroom wall caused by other children living in the home.

Children do not have positive relationships with each other. One child has continued to be targeted by other children, both in the home and in the community. This child has experienced verbal abuse and children have thrown food at her. Children have received injuries during incidents of bullying or physical altercation. This means that children have been exposed to unacceptable levels of risk and harm.

Staff do not supervise children consistently or effectively. On occasion, staff have responded to incidents only when they have heard children shouting. Staff have found children in each other's bedrooms. Staff do not anticipate potential conflict between children and are therefore unsuccessful in de-escalating situations.

Following some incidents, staff have been unable to reassure children. These children have then left the home upset. On a small number of occasions, children have consumed alcohol. This exposes children to the risk of harm.

Staff report children to the police when they go missing from the home, and are proactive in looking for children and encouraging them to return home.

Staff do not undertake restorative work with the children after incidents, to promote positive relationships and mutual respect. Leaders do not ensure that staff engage proactively with children to enrich the children's experiences and provide them with opportunities to progress.

Leaders do not act in a timely way to protect children in response to known and increasing levels of risk. Leaders make decisions following serious events. Consequently, children experience emergency moves, which they are not prepared for. One child has expressed his anger about his unplanned placement move. In addition, the registered manager has not assessed the suitability of the new

placement for the child, or the impact for the child and the children already living there. This places children at potential risk of harm.

Staff do not feel skilled to support a child who struggles to regulate his emotions. One member of staff said, 'We are fighting fires.' The registered manager has not submitted an updated statement of purpose to Ofsted. The social care regulatory inspector is therefore not assured that the staff have sufficient skills and experience to care for the children living in this home.

The registered manager has not submitted notifications to inform Ofsted of all serious events involving children living in this home, and has not ensured that notifications contain enough information to explain how the incident has developed. There have been occasions where members of the public have become involved to safeguard children or support members of staff. The social care regulatory inspector was therefore unaware of the increasing targeting of one child and levels of risk for children living in the home.

The registered manager has consulted with children and acted in response to feedback about arrangements for pocket money. Children have also been involved in choosing soft furnishings for the redecorated lounge and personalising their bedrooms.

Following this inspection, three compliance notices have been raised due to serious concerns about the quality of care, protection of children and leadership and management in the home. A fourth compliance notice has been raised regarding the registered manager's failure to provide Ofsted with sufficient information to monitor the serious events involving children. Ofsted has imposed an emergency variation reducing the condition of registration from four to three children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/09/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/11/2019	Full	Good
10/05/2018	Full	Good
31/01/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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 within 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— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) This is in relation to the prompt repair of damage in the home to maintain a welcoming environment where children feel safe.	20 February 2022
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—	20 February 2022

help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child's behaviour, in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children; de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children; understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable; and have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(ix)(xi)(xii)(xiii)) This is in relation to staff using restorative approaches to support children in conflict and prevent bullying of children living in the home.	
*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;	20 February 2022

manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iv)(v)(vi)) This is in relation to consistent supervision of children and management of children's behaviour towards each other.	
*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; 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(f)) This is in relation to effective leadership to address regulatory shortfalls and provide children with a positive care experience.	20 February 2022
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1.	20 February 2022

The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (1) (3)(a)(b)) This is in relation to submitting an updated statement of purpose with a current staffing list.	
*The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. A notification made under this regulation— must include details of— the matter; the other persons, bodies or organisations (if any) who or which have been notified; and any actions taken by the registered person as a result of the matter; must be made or confirmed in writing. (Regulation 40 (4)(b)(e) (5)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(b)) This is in relation to informing Ofsted of all serious incidents and ensuring that antecedents and responses to safeguard children are detailed in the notification.	20 February 2022

* These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC033326

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Kirklees Metropolitan Council, Civic Centre 3,
Huddersfield, Yorkshire HD1 2EY

Responsible individual: Elaine McShane

Registered manager: Martin Steele

Inspector

Joanna Warburton, Social Care Inspector

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