

SC033657

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a local authority. It provides care for up to four children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The current manager is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 12 to 13 April 2018

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **requires improvement**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **requires improvement**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **requires improvement**

The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 10 November 2017

Overall judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/11/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
11/07/2017	Full	Good

13/12/2016	Full	Requires improvement
11/10/2016	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, 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 registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child— is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii) and (e)) This is specifically in relation to notifying the regulator of all serious events. The notifications need to provide enough details for the regulator to make a judgement.	17 May 2018
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. (Regulation	17 May 2018

12 (1)(2)(a)(i))	
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— manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other. 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)(iv)(b)) This is specifically in relation to the provider assessing the placements based on the needs and presenting behaviour of children, and taking action which swiftly reduces the risk of harm on each other when necessary.	2 May 2018
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— 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)(2)(f))	17 May 2018
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	17 May 2018

designed and furnished so as to—

meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (2)(c)(i)(ii))

This is specifically in relation to the provider maintaining the home to a high standard.

Recommendations

Any individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as an independent person must make a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the home's care. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement

There has been a recent escalation in the number of incidents of challenging behaviour. As a result, at times the children are experiencing a chaotic environment. Some of the children have had their bedroom door kicked off several times and some of their possessions have been taken and damaged. This leaves some of the children feeling unsafe. Some of the children are at risk of harm by engaging in criminal activity together, such as stealing staff cars, credit cards and the television.

The children's physical and mental health is likely to be negatively affected by their increased cannabis use. Work to reduce cannabis use is ongoing. The staff try to reinforce healthy lifestyle choices. The staff educate the children about healthy eating and encourage physical activity.

Education attendance and progress for the children is variable. Some children have received awards for good attendance and others are achieving good grades at school. Educational attendance and progress for some of the children has recently declined. The staff continue to encourage the children to attend education to increase their employment opportunities in later life.

The staff team is trying to maintain the home while it awaits refurbishment. Some areas require professional attention. The cooker is broken and the kitchen worktops are cracked in places. The carpets in the living room and on the landing are stained in areas. Some paintwork around the home is poor. This is not consistently creating a quality home environment.

Some of the children's social skills improve from relationship work with the staff. The children learn a range of independence skills, such as home maintenance, how to travel

on public transport, budgeting and cleaning. These skills are preparing them well to live independently.

A range of activities are on offer for the children. Activities include go-karting, going to the cinema and football. Children engaging in these activities have improved social skills and life experience.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement

There have been several occasions when the children have taken belongings from staff and visitors. As a result, a staff member's car has been stolen and a credit card has been taken and used fraudulently. Guidelines around possessions have been issued to the staff but they are not always followed. Guidelines do not include procedures for visitors. This provides the opportunity for the children to access keys and personal items.

Some of the children feel they are targeted negatively by others. The staff offer a nurturing approach and try to support the young people to be kind to each other. This is not always successful, and some of the children feel the staff are not able to protect them. As a result, the children resort to calling the police. This affects their emotional well-being.

When the children go missing from home, the staff follow missing procedures and go in search of the children. The staff work closely with the police to help find the children.

The staff undertake training which helps them to identify risks that children may experience, such as child sexual exploitation, radicalisation and keeping safe when online. The staff benefit from visits from local agency professionals, which enhances their knowledge.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement

There is weakness in the monitoring of the staff's practice. The acting manager has implemented guidance around safety procedures that is not always followed. This has resulted in repeated incidents of risk.

The notifications of serious events sent to the regulatory body lack key information. This hinders the regulatory body's oversight of safeguarding practice.

The quality of the analysis of the independent visitor's report varies. Some reports lack specific dates of events and examination of actions taken. This does not help the manager to identify areas for development.

The manager's monitoring has identified when the children's needs clash and create risk. He has taken action to begin the process to move some children. However, this action is taking too long and putting others at risk of harm and bullying. Mostly, the members of staff feel supported by the management team and have regular

supervision that helps them to reflect on their practice.

The manager works effectively with other professionals. The manager has recently introduced a new initiative whereby the children and the staff work closely with adults who have been looked after. This helps the staff and the children to share their experiences.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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: SC033657

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Registered provider address: 40 Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3DL

Responsible individual: Stephen Walker

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Jamie Richardson, social care inspector

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