

Monitoring report for a Children's Home

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Inspector	Joanne Vyas

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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is privately owned and is registered to provide residential placements for up to four children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Outcome of monitoring visit

This home was subject to a compliance notice, under Regulation 11 of the Children's Homes Regulations, following an interim inspection on 10 December 2014. Concerns related to staff not managing the behaviour of young people well. Furthermore, there were poor management arrangements in place to cover the absence of the Registered Manager while on leave. There was also poor support for staff, and some staff on shift did not know the young people well. These concerns led to young people putting themselves, staff and members of the public at risk of serious harm. As a result of this, some young people were arrested and removed from the home by the police.

In order to evaluate the progress the home has made in addressing these concerns a monitoring visit was undertaken on 15 January 2015. The Registered Manager and the responsible individual have made significant efforts to meet this compliance notice. The responsible individual and Registered Manager have made it clear that they want to get the home back on track before they accommodate any young people in this home.

The responsible individual has conducted an in-depth investigation into the serious incidents that occurred during the absence of the Registered Manager. Management cover in the absence of the Registered Manager has been revised. Staff have been properly supported to reflect on the incidents of concern and learn from this. They have received significant training which includes behaviour management and safeguarding practices. Staff have been given extra responsibilities which has empowered them to ensure they have the confidence to make good practice decisions and communicate any concerns to senior managers. However, there are no young people currently residing at this home and so the direct impact of these changes for young people cannot be assessed currently. Nevertheless, the highlighted issues have been addressed and therefore the notice has been met.

About this monitoring visit

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and progress made by the Children's Home following an Ofsted inspection.