

SC035154

Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Information about this children's home

The home is run by the local authority and provides care and accommodation for up to five children. The aim of the home is to apply the model of care to support children to be able to return home, to foster carers or to independent living. Three children currently live in this home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2020 and holds the relevant qualifications.

Inspection date: 16 August 2022

This monitoring visit

On 5 and 6 July 2022 Ofsted carried out a full inspection at the home. The home was judged inadequate. Significant breaches in regulations relating to the safety and protection of children, the leadership and management standard, and care planning standard were found. Three compliance notices were issued for breaches under regulations 12, 13 and 14 and a restriction of accommodation was also issued. This monitoring visit was to review the progress made with this higher enforcement action.

There has not been sufficient progress made against all steps in the compliance notices. There has been some action taken, but this is not sufficient to ensure that all steps have been fully addressed.

The registered manager has undertaken a review of risk management plans, which have been streamlined and updated. However, some of these still remain unclear and are not up to date. This means that staff do not have current information about children's risks and vulnerabilities.

The manager has failed to ensure that staff are fully aware of any changes made to risk management plans. This has led to staff making unsafe decisions, which went against the risk management plans in place. A significant incident took place as a

result of this poor decision-making that put two of the children, staff and members of the public at significant risk of harm.

The provider is in the process of recruiting new staff. However, these staff are not yet in post. There are insufficient levels of staff in place and the children do not receive support from a stable and consistent team of staff.

This staffing shortfall means that the registered and deputy managers continue to care for the children. This has taken the managers away from essential managerial tasks, which have resulted in the shortfalls in the manager's oversight and monitoring of the home.

The registered manager now ensures that incident reports and physical interventions are evaluated in a timely way. Staff are aware of the outcome of these evaluations, and any actions needed, through a communication book. There is no system in place for the manager to assure herself that staff have read and understood this information. Staff continue to be inconsistent in how they respond in such situations.

The registered manager has reviewed the previous process of communal areas being locked. No areas are restricted at night and children now have access to all areas that they should.

The home has not had any new children move in or move out and are therefore adhering to the notice of restriction. The registered manager has received assurances that her decisions on which children move in to the home will not be overturned in the future. The provider has recognised the significant impact this had on all the children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/07/2022	Full	Inadequate
13/01/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
03/08/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
25/04/2018	Full	Outstanding

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, 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 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; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; 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; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; 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)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b))	25 September 2022
* The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—	25 September 2022

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; 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e))	
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children’s home at least once each month. When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires; and to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home’s records (except for a child’s case records, unless the child and the child’s placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a)(b)) In particular, that visits take place in person, consultation takes place with others and is accurately recorded, and that records are only reviewed for the time period the report covers and not records dated after the visit.	6 October 2022

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: SC035154

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Calderdale School Effectiveness Service, 2nd Floor, Westgate House, Westgate, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 1PS

Responsible individual: Guy Greenwood

Registered manager: Claire Chiles

Inspector

Matt Reed, Her Majesty's Inspector

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