

SC035235

Registered provider: Durham County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a local authority. It provides care for up to three children who experience social and emotional difficulties, and who may have learning disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2023.

One child was living in the home at the time of inspection.

The child has temporarily moved to another house while repairs are carried out at the registered children's home. This monitoring visit took place at the temporary home. A visit to the registered children's home also took place.

Inspection date: 15 October 2024

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 22 and 23 May 2024. Ofsted issued one compliance notice under regulation 12. In addition, four requirements were raised. A further monitoring visit took place on 8 July 2024. The compliance notice under regulation 12 had not been met and was reissued.

A further monitoring visit was completed on 2 September 2024 to monitor the provider's progress in meeting the steps within the compliance notice. The compliance notice had still not been met. A compliance notice under regulation 12 was reissued. In addition, a compliance notice under regulation 13 was issued.

Since the last visit, one child has moved out of the home. Staff continue to care for one child who is still living in the temporary home while repairs are carried out at the registered children's home. A visit was undertaken to both homes. The registered home has benefited from a complete refurbishment throughout to a high standard.

The child has been included in discussions about personalising their bedroom. There are plans for the child to return to the registered home as repairs are almost complete.

An interim manager offers support to the registered manager's oversight and management of the home. The managers have implemented more effective positive behaviour responses for staff to follow. For example, the child now has a reward system in place, which they are responding well to. In recent weeks, this has resulted in a reduction in the times when the child has struggled to manage their emotions or behaviour. Staff discussions with the child are becoming more planned rather than staff reacting to the child's behaviour. This supports the child to reflect on their behaviour and manage their emotions.

Staff morale across the team is improving. Staff are now receiving regular supervision sessions, which include more reflective practice discussions. Staff take part in a development day to support the change to the staffing culture issues and to help improve the quality of care for the child.

Leaders and managers have implemented an effective action plan to address the shortfalls raised. As a result, the compliance notices issued under regulations 12 and 13 have been met. Leaders and managers are realistic that change is in the early stages and have ongoing plans to continue to make improvements.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/05/2024	Full	Inadequate
06/02/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
27/09/2022	Full	Good
22/11/2021	Full	Good

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: SC035235

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Durham County Council

Registered provider address: Resources, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

Responsible individual: Paul Rudd

Registered manager: Amy Philbin-Robinson

Inspector

Jess Elliott, Social Care Inspector

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