

SC035380

Registered provider: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a local authority. It provides care and support for children with physical and learning disabilities. The home offers short-break care for up to five children, and one longer-term placement.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2022.

Inspection date: 17 January 2024

Date of last inspection: 31 October 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Outcome from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The registered manager has improved how children can access their home. Doors to communal areas are open so children can move freely between rooms. This has increased children's enjoyment of their home when they have planned stays.

A range of monitoring and surveillance systems are in use for some children depending on their level of need. The manager has reviewed all risk assessments and care plans to ensure that they are only in use for children who require these measures as an additional safeguard. This ensures that children have the right level of support from staff throughout their stay.

Team meetings and a development day have focused on staff understanding the impact of depriving children of their liberty and how consent should be obtained. Staff now have the knowledge and skills to plan appropriately for children's stays. Staff have developed a greater insight into their practice and children's rights. The registered manager said this is having a positive impact when children stay at the home.

The registered manager raises appropriate challenge with professionals when this is needed. For one child, this means that they no longer sleep in a specially designed bed when this is not required. This creates an environment closer to that of the children's home when they come to stay.

There have not been any incidents of physical intervention being used to manage the behaviour of children. The registered manager has developed a new template for recording incidents should they occur. This is to ensure that there is a focus on children's views and observations of children after an incident takes place.

Staff take part in frequent and reflective conversations with their line managers. Supervision provides staff with opportunities to focus on their practice, professional development and safeguarding. This better supports staff to reflect on the children's experience of their time in the home and how this can be improved.

The registered manager and the staff team have worked well together and have met the requirements raised at the full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/10/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/02/2023	Full	Good
01/02/2022	Full	Good
26/02/2020	Full	Good

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC035380

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Registered provider address: Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 1LD

Responsible individual: Louise Carling

Registered manager: Dawn Coyle

Inspector

Joanne Wallis, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024