

SC035387

Registered provider: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides cares for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home closed temporarily in October 2022 for a period of renovation and refurbishment. Due to this, Ofsted placed a condition on the home's registration. This set out that the local authority must inform Ofsted of its intention to admit children three months before a child commences living at the home.

The local authority has informed Ofsted of its intention to reopen the home.

A manager has been appointed. They are in the process of completing an application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 16 August 2023

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was completed to ensure that the home remains safe and suitable and continues to meet the requirements for registration. As part of this visit, the home environment was viewed, and the staffing arrangements were monitored.

Since October 2022, the home has undergone extensive improvement. This has involved maintenance work, redecoration, and the replacement of furniture and fittings. The work on the building is now complete and the home is in good repair. The home is pleasantly decorated and furnished and is well equipped.

Currently, the home has a manager, a deputy manager and four residential workers. Ongoing recruitment is taking place to ensure that the home has sufficient staff to care for children.

The requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection are carried forward and will be reviewed at the home's next full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/01/2022	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
26/10/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/02/2020	Full	Good
26/11/2018	Full	Good

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 must comply with 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)) In particular, ensure that children's risk assessments are accurate; that children have individualised missing-from-home protocols for staff to follow; and that assessments prior to admission identify all potential risks for all children.	10 March 2022
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; and the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(iv)(v)(vii))	10 March 2022
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which—	10 March 2022

include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child;

are kept up to date; and

are signed and dated by the author of each entry.
(Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that a child's bedroom should only be searched if the child has been informed or asked for their permission. In particular, ensure that search records include if the child was present and details of the safe storage of any items removed. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 16, paragraph 3.20)
- The registered person should have a system in place so that all serious events are notified, within 24 hours, to the appropriate people. The system should cover the action that should be followed if the event arises at the weekend or on a public holiday. (Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 63, paragraph 14.13)
- The registered person should ensure that their review of the premises includes the identification of any risks and opportunities presented by the home's location and strategies for managing these. (Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 64, paragraph 15.1)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to ensure the home has safe and suitable facilities and resources to care for children.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC035387

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: Post vacant

Inspector

Emma Ridley, Social Care Inspector

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