

Kyloe House

Northumberland County Council
Netherton Park Children's Home, Stanington, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 6DE

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this secure children's home

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict children's liberty.

The home can accommodate up to 15 children aged between 10 and 17 years. It has three designated living areas: Alder, Willow and Hadrian.

There were 13 children living in the home at the time of this inspection.

The home provides care for children accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who are placed by local authorities.

The admission of any child under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who is under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

The commissioning of health services in this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 30 January 2012.

Inspection date: 15 May 2024

Date of last inspection: 28 November 2023

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

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

Inspectors have 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not find any serious or widespread concerns relating to the care and protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children say that they are 'well looked after' and 'the staff are the best thing about living at the home'. The trusting relationships that children build with staff help them greatly to accept help. Children listen and take on board the advice and support provided by staff. This helps them to better understand the reasons that they are in a secure setting and plan positively for the future.

The care, health and education staff work as one team. Managers and staff know the children well and have an extremely detailed understanding of each child's vulnerabilities, identified risks and care needs. Formulation meetings involving care, education and health staff are used effectively to ensure that children are kept safe, and their care needs are routinely met. This supports children's progress and promotes positive outcomes.

Consultation with children continues to be a key focus in the home. Children said that they can make choices about what activities they like to do and the meals they eat. In addition, the children engage well in children's meetings where they can confidently give their views and suggestions which are considered and used to influence their day-to-day experiences. These meetings are child-focused and well evidenced in detailed records.

There is a strong focus on keeping children safe. The children are settled, and serious incidents are infrequent. When incidents do occur, staff follow procedures which are subject to good oversight and scrutiny. Information is shared with all relevant external professionals and staff hold post-incident debriefs and undertake direct work with children. This promotes learning and helps to reduce or prevent the recurrence of such incidents and assists in keeping children safe.

Staff benefit from regular formal supervision. This supports their ongoing well-being, promotes improved care practice, as well as meeting their training and development needs. Training is kept up to date and all staff have recently undertaken trauma-informed practice training. This ensures that staff have the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the children.

The registered manager and senior leadership team provide effective oversight and scrutiny of children's experiences and service delivery. They are focused on improving standards and have developed a well-thought-out action plan to improve education monitoring systems. These changes are currently being embedded into work practice.

The one requirement and two recommendations made at the last inspection that relate to education will be checked at the next full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/11/2023	Full	Good
01/11/2022	Full	Outstanding
01/03/2022	Full	Good
21/09/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

What does the secure children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered persons must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered persons must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; and support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that all staff have high expectations of what children can achieve and that teachers set appropriately challenging targets based on children's starting points, which help children to make the progress they should over time. ensure that all staff set appropriate and consistent expectations for behaviour and conduct to promote calm and positive learning environments that help children to learn, including when children learn in their residential units; and review quality assurance and quality improvement processes to ensure that they have an accurate oversight of the quality of education and the progress that children make.	28 May 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children are in full-time education while they are of compulsory school age unless their personal education plan contained within the care plan or other relevant plan states otherwise. In particular, link-work sessions should be completed outside of school hours. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 28, paragraph 5.14)
- The registered person should actively seek and make best use of information from internal monitoring to ensure continuous improvement. In particular, have regard for the progress that children are making in education and their experiences. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 55, paragraph 10.24)

Secure children's home details

Unique reference number: SC035409

Provision sub-type: Secure Unit

Registered provider: Northumberland County Council

Registered provider address: County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF

Responsible individual: Adam Hall

Registered manager: Julie Tinkler

Inspectors

Debbie Foster, Social Care Inspector
Cathey Moriarty, Social Care Inspector
Gemma Mc Donnell 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 reports.ofsted.gov.uk.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: 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