

SC035428

Lancashire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority home. The provider states in its statement of purpose that short-term care is provided for one child with social and emotional difficulties. In many cases, children have complex needs and have experienced multiple placement breakdowns prior to coming to the home.

The manager has submitted her application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 11 November 2021

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out to review progress made against three compliance notices served at the previous monitoring visit on 19 October 2021. These relate to regulation 12 (the protection of children standard), regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard) and regulation 14 (the care planning standard).

Currently, there are no children living in the home. The home was restricted after the inspection on 17 August 2021. The provider has adhered to the restriction.

Since the visit on 19 October 2021, several steps have been taken to meet the compliance notices served. Inspectors visited the home and spoke to staff and managers about the improvement plans in place.

Staff have been meeting regularly as a team to participate in development days. Group discussions around care planning and risk management are improving the staff's knowledge on how to keep children safe. A detailed procedure has been put in place to support children moving into and out of the home. As a result, children are more likely to feel supported with difficult change in their lives.

Staff have worked closely with managers to review information about children who may move in. Staff and managers are now considering the location of the home

when making decisions. This has helped to build the team's skills in identifying where the gaps are in background information and staff's skills and experience.

The manager has completed a skills analysis of the team. A review of staff's previous experience has helped to identify where further training is necessary. As a result, the manager has taken a back-to-basics approach. The whole team has completed the induction programme again. Staff have valued this time to refresh and learn new skills.

Staff have completed a range of training to help them meet the needs of children when they move in. This has included training in de-escalation and physical intervention, self-harm and ligatures, and mental health. This means that staff are more likely to work consistently to keep children safe.

Although there are no children currently living in the home, huge efforts have been made to improve the management monitoring systems in place. The new manager is evaluating previous documentation in order to find patterns and trends to inform the learning within the team.

Further efforts have been made to improve the home environment. For example, there is now a comfortable room for children to be able to study. However, further efforts are required to make the home look less institutional. Signs and locks on internal doors do not appear homely and prevent children from having access to all areas of the home.

The compliance notices have been met. The requirements made at the previous inspection will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/08/2021	Full	Inadequate
22/06/2021	Full	Inadequate
21/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
18/09/2018	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, the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(b)(c)) This requirement is restated.	12 December 2021
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child— is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e)) This requirement is restated.	12 December 2021
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—	12 December 2021

understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to making the home environment less institutional.	
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) This specifically relates to removing internal locks on the doors of communal areas.	12 December 2021

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: SC035428

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Registered provider address: PO Box 78, County Hall, Fishergate, Preston, PR1 8XJ

Responsible individual: Gwen Monk

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Sylvia Eboigbe, Social Care Inspector
Carly Quinn, Social Care Inspector

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