

Children's homes - monitoring

Inspection date	21/09/2015
Unique reference number	SC035439
Type of inspection	Monitoring
Inspector	Ms Line

This monitoring visit

A full inspection was carried out on 14 July 2015 and the home was judged to be inadequate. Widespread failings were found including: a lack of effective action by staff in response to serious safeguarding concerns; risks relating to young people's drug taking behaviour not being clearly identified or robustly responded to leaving them at an increasing risk of significant harm; poor care planning; an absence of procedures in relation to emergency admissions meaning the home operated outside of its Statement of Purpose, and weaknesses in leadership and management. As a result, three compliance notices were issued on 24 July 2015 to address these concerns together with a restriction notice for a six week period between 27 July 2015 and 7 September 2015.

An unannounced monitoring visit took place on 26 August 2015 to monitor the three compliance notices and adherence with the restriction of accommodation in place. The outcome of this visit was that two out of the three compliance notices were met demonstrating improvements in care planning, more robust procedures for emergency admissions, and training for staff. Three additional requirements were made to ensure that the programme of improvement identified during this visit was fully implemented. A further compliance notice was issued on 28 August 2015 in relation to the safety and welfare of young people, as there was insufficient evidence to show that this compliance notice had been fully met. Furthermore, the restriction of accommodation was extended for a further four week period between 8 September 2015 and 5 October 2015.

A second monitoring visit was undertaken on 21 September 2015 to review progress against the requirements, monitor the one compliance notice and adherence to the restriction of accommodation.

This inspection found that no young people have been admitted to the home since 27 July 2015 and therefore, the restriction of accommodation notice has not been breached.

Positive steps have now been taken to address the safety and welfare needs of young people. Staff and managers are more aware of their roles and responsibilities in order to protect young people. Staff are consistent in their approach to managing challenging behaviour, they are more vigilant and have increased their supervision of young people, they understand risk, and respond effectively to minimise and manage this. As a result, there are fewer disturbances at night time, young people are not entering each other's bedrooms, and only one incident occurred where a young person encouraged younger and more vulnerable residents to engage in smoking cannabis. Improved behaviour management and safeguarding practice means that young people are now sufficiently protected from harm.

Work is ongoing to minimise risks for one young person around their drug taking behaviour. Better communication between professionals, together with staff consistently following risk management plans means a reduction in incidents of class A drug use. Consequently, this young person is at less risk of significant harm.

Young people spoken to during the inspection reported they are generally happier and that things are more positive for them. One young person said she is now confident to say no to another young person who has the capacity to negatively influence her. This reflects the work being undertaken with her on keeping safe and making better relationship and lifestyle choices.

Measures have now been taken by leaders and managers to implement more robust monitoring systems. As a result, staff practice and records are reviewed more readily so that safeguarding concerns are more easily identified and addressed. This helps to promote young people's welfare and keep them safe. Additional work is required to further improve the content of risk assessments and individual behaviour support plans. Some progress has been made but more needs to be done to ensure they clearly outline all known risks and strategies in place to manage these. A requirement is raised to secure improvements in this aspect of recording practice.

Ofsted is satisfied that sufficient measures have been taken to address the widespread shortfalls identified at the last full inspection, and subsequent monitoring visits. There are now signs of improvement in the quality of care being provided to young people and that they are safe. No further enforcement action is being taken. Given the improvements in safeguarding practice and reduced risk of harm to young people, the restriction of accommodation notice has now been lifted.

Information about this children's home

A local authority operates this children's home. This service is registered for up to six young people of either gender, aged between 11 and 17 years of age. The home cares for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets 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(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
12: The protection of children standard 12: The help and protection standard In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered person must ensure - (2)(a) that staff - (i) 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 a child, with specific reference to the content of risk assessments behaviour support plans.	26/10/2015

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the home since their last Ofsted inspection.

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

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