

Children's homes - monitoring

Inspection date	26/08/2015
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. A large number of failings were identified 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 leading to a young person being admitted to the home without a clear understanding of their needs; an absence of procedures in respect of 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 of accommodation notice for a six week period between 27 July 2015 and 7 September 2015. An unannounced monitoring visit was carried out on 26 August 2015 to monitor the three compliance notices served, and adherence with the restriction of accommodation in place.

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.

Since the last inspection some steps have been taken to improve admissions processes. For example, a procedure for emergency admissions has now been drafted and is awaiting sign off by a senior residential manager before implementation. There is evidence that new systems are to be introduced so that decision making processes relating to emergency admissions are clearly recorded. Furthermore, impact risks assessments have been reviewed and improved to ensure young people's needs are clearly identified and strategies put in place to manage these. A requirement is raised following this inspection to ensure that improvements currently underway are finalised.

Care planning arrangements have improved and relevant meetings have now taken place for residents who were new to the home at the last inspection. This means their needs are now more clearly identified, and progress is monitored and reviewed in line with regulation.

A schedule is now in place to ensure that staff receive training in bullying, e-safety, and drug awareness. This means the registered manager has taken some positive measures to equip staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the individual needs of young people. Further action is needed to ensure that individual training plans for staff are reviewed and updated so that any further needs are identified and addressed.

Arrangements for safeguarding young people are still poor. Not all risk assessments and behaviour management plans are up to date, and reflect current concerns. They do not contain clear guidance for staff about how to manage

disturbances at night time, and the negative influence of some young people on others. As a result, younger and more vulnerable residents are being encouraged to engage in risk taking behaviours such as smoking cannabis, and entering into other young people's rooms at night, sometimes without the knowledge of staff. A lack of appropriate supervision, together with inconsistent responses means that young people are not being sufficiently protected from harm.

At the time of the last inspection two young people were taking class A drugs. Since then one young person has been discharged from the home, and one young person is now engaging more readily with specialist drugs workers. As a result, the frequency of such episodes has reduced significantly. Because staff have not communicated effectively with others, they have not been able to minimise risks still further by securing relevant information and taking effective action. Moreover, the risk management plan in place has not always been followed, and this means that young people continue to be at risk of significant harm on occasions. Improvement work is needed to ensure that managers and staff take robust action to safeguard young people.

Sufficient steps have not been taken by leaders and managers to review records and oversee practice so that safeguarding concerns are readily identified and addressed. Further action is needed to ensure that appropriate monitoring systems are in place to adequately safeguard young people and promote their welfare.

As a result of this monitoring visit a further compliance notice has been issued in relation to the safety and welfare of young people. Three requirements have also been made to secure improvements in the admissions process, in direct work with young people around safe relationships, and with regards to staff training. The restriction of accommodation notice remains in place at this time.

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
6: The quality and purpose of care standard In order to meet the quality and purpose of care standard the registered person must - (2)(a) understand and apply the home's statement of purpose, in particular that the newly drafted procedure and recording templates in relation to emergency admissions are implemented.	15/09/2015
11: The positive relationships standard In order to meet the positive relationships standard the registered person must ensure - 2(a) that staff - (vii) help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from damaging, exploitative or harmful relationships	15/09/2015
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; (iv) manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; (v) understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person (vi) take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; (b) that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so	15/09/2015

as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm.*	
13: The leadership and management standard In order to meet the leadership and management standard the registered person must - (2)(c) ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child, specifically that individual training plans for staff are reviewed and updated.	30/09/2015

*These requirements are subject to statutory compliance

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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

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, workbased learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It inspects services for looked after children 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 4234, 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 www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

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/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015