

SC035439

Lancashire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a local authority and is registered to provide care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties. At the time of this visit, two children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2023.

Inspection date: 29 July 2024

This monitoring visit

Ofsted carried out a full inspection on 11 and 12 June 2024 and judged the home to be inadequate. Serious and widespread failures were identified. Children have not been protected and their welfare has not been promoted or safeguarded. As a result, Ofsted issued compliance notices in relation Regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and Regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard).

The purpose of this visit was to review the progress made to meet the requirements of the compliance notices. This visit identified that leaders and managers have failed to take sufficient action to protect children from harm. As a result, Ofsted has reissued compliance notices in relation to regulations 12 and 13.

Leaders have put in place some new safeguarding systems to support managers and staff to respond to safeguarding concerns. However, the response to a recent safeguarding incident was not effective. This shows that staff do not follow safeguarding procedures, which places children at risk of harm.

Repairs have been made to the home and it looks more homely. However, children's bedrooms are still uncared for, with piles of dirty plates and junk food wrappers on the floor of one child's bedroom. This is not safe or hygienic.

Staff have received training that is specific to children's needs. Team meetings have taken place, and the time is used to learn lessons from safeguarding incidents. Work is ongoing with staff to support them to work cohesively.

Routines have been put in place for children, but children do not always engage with them. Children do not yet feel that they have trusted relationships with staff.

During this visit, the requirements raised at the last inspection were not considered. These will be assessed at the next full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/06/2024	Full	Inadequate
06/06/2023	Full	Good
13/03/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/01/2022	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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
*The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that there is sufficient staff to manage the children's behaviour and promote daily routines. In addition, ensure that staff: work together as a team and provide consistency of care for children; have the skills and experience to meet the children's needs, including promoting routine.	11 October 2024
*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—	11 October 2024

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; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child’s welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home’s child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)) In particular, ensure that the children’s individual risk management plans provide staff with clear strategies to manage and reduce risk. This also relates to ensuring that managers and staff follow safeguarding procedures in response to children going missing from home and children at risk of sexual exploitation. The registered person must ensure that repairs to the home are addressed quickly, particularly where the damage could compromise fire safety.	
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— maintain regular contact with each child’s education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child’s education and	11 October 2024

training and to maximise the child's achievement; raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(vi)(vii)(viii))	
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)) The registered person must ensure that significant incidents are notified to Ofsted.	11 October 2024
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—	11 October 2024

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)) In particular, ensure that internal locks on the communal doors are removed.	
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child. a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)(c)) In particular, ensure that medication is administered consistently and safely to prevent children from hiding and failing to take medication.	11 October 2024

*These requirements are subject of a compliance notice.

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: SC035439

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Registered provider address: County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ

Responsible individual: Dawn Bottomley

Registered manager: Richard Lawler

Inspectors

Cathy Wilkins, Social Care Inspector

Paulette Forbes, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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