

SC035648

Durham County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority manages this secure children's home. It is approved by the Department for Education to restrict children's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 38 children aged between 10 and 17 years. It provides care and accommodation for up to 18 children placed by the Youth Custody Service and has 20 places 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.

Inspection date: 4 April 2018

This monitoring visit

A monitoring visit was carried out on 31 January 2018. Information relating to an incident highlighted by a regulation 44 report was reviewed. The inspector found that the criteria for staff using physical restraint as defined by regulations were not justified. Physical restraint was used by staff in order to secure compliance in breach of regulations. This breach of regulations had not been recognised, nor appropriate action taken, despite two stages of scrutiny by senior staff members. Compliance notices were issued to the provider relating to these matters.

The purpose of the monitoring visit was to evaluate whether the provider had met the requirements set out in the compliance notices. The provider has taken action to address the shortfalls identified.

The manager has ensured that the home's procedures that set out the criteria for the use of physical restraint, as defined by regulations, have been provided to all staff, so that they clearly understand what is expected of them. The manager has attended a number of staff handover meetings on all house units. The individual house unit managers have held meetings and carried out formal supervision with

staff in order to reiterate the legal criteria for physical restraint and the home's procedures. Staff who spoke with the inspector were aware of actions taken by managers and demonstrated a clear understanding of the legal criteria for using physical restraint.

The manager has randomly sampled other physical restraint incidents that occurred on or around the time of the last monitoring visit, using records and closed-circuit television (CCTV). He verified that incidents reviewed complied with regulations and where shortfalls in practice were identified, these have been fully recorded and appropriate actions taken.

The manager has reviewed and revised the quality assurance process relating to physical restraint incidents. Previously, a senior manager carried out this task alone. Now, a senior manager, alongside one of the nursing team and/or another senior manager, reviews any incidents using records and CCTV. Dedicated and protected time is set aside for this process. The manager stated that nursing staff have been trained to understand the techniques that are used and the training that staff receive. The manager stated that he has overseen this new process and is confident that it is effective.

The manager has ensured that senior staff fully understand the home's procedures and the regulations relating to physical restraint and what is expected of them when undertaking monitoring of incidents. Senior managers who spoke with the inspector verified the actions taken by the manager in relation to the compliance notices. They demonstrated a clear understanding of the home's procedures and the regulations relating to physical intervention.

Six of the incidents were reviewed using records and CCTV. All but one evidenced that the criteria for physical restraint were met and that managers had formally and appropriately reviewed the incidents. Managers had made comments to show that practice was appropriate or that they had identified areas of learning in order to improve practice. One incident was recorded by managers as not meeting regulations. This incident was a difficult situation for staff to manage and there were evident risks to a staff member, though actions could have been taken that may have avoided the need to use physical restraint. These matters were identified by managers in their monitoring processes. All relevant factors were considered and taken into account in the taking of appropriate actions after this incident.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
06/06/2017	Full	Good
15/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
27/09/2016	Full	Good

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: SC035648

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider: Durham County Council

Registered provider address: County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

Responsible individual: Carole Payne

Registered manager: Selwyn Morgans

Inspector

Shaun Common, lead professional – secure estate

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