

SC036026

Sheffield City Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a local authority. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five children or young people. The children or young people receive care that supports them to manage their emotions and have positive childhood experiences.

The staff provide support to adolescents in local authority care. The home acts as a bridging placement to permanence in a foster family, back to birth family, or for older young people, to permanence in the community.

The manager is experienced and has been in post since October 2019.

Inspection dates: 26 to 27 January 2021

This monitoring visit

This visit was undertaken remotely. The inspector followed the health and safety guidelines in respect of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

This visit was carried out in response to an escalation in concerns about children's safety, well-being and the quality of care they receive. There have been several notifications relating to care practice and child protection concerns. The last inspection of the home was conducted in October 2019.

The children's care, safety and well-being are often compromised by staff not always following the relevant risk assessments and behaviour management plans. The children's needs, risks and vulnerabilities are well identified in the risk assessments but are not fully understood by staff and the management team. Staff are reactive to incidents and are not always proactive in addressing concerns.

All safeguarding, child protection and any other incidents of concern are not routinely recorded in line with procedures and do not have consistent management

oversight. When incidents have happened, the decision-making by staff has not always been consistent, which has led to children's behaviours escalating.

Staff say that they feel well supported by the manager and the rest of the team. However, they acknowledge that, at times, due to staffing levels, they are not always able to carry out searches to help safeguard children when they go missing from the home. As a result, staff cannot be fully aware of any risks the children may be exposed to.

High levels of physical interventions have taken place. These are appropriately managed by staff. However, records relating to the interventions lack clarity and do not have appropriate management oversight. In addition, the staff and children do not always receive debriefs following incidents. This is a missed opportunity to develop practice and to help children reflect about what happened.

Poor matching of children's needs has resulted in children's behaviour having a negative impact on each other. Impact assessments seen by the inspector were not analytical or did not fully consider the needs of all the children.

There are high levels of bullying, and for some children this means that they have re-engaged in antisocial and dangerous behaviours. This includes damage to their home and physical violence towards peers and staff.

Staff have access to training, supervision, weekly team meetings, handovers and weekly debriefs. However, supervision records lack detail and do not demonstrate reflective practice. This is a missed opportunity to support staff development.

The staff team is resilient and works with other agencies to provide support for the children. Staff carry out direct sessions with children to address risks. However, these sessions are often reactive and do not fully address the current concerns and the risks that children are exposed to.

Professionals spoken to said that the staff have worked hard with the children and they work well in partnership. For example, one social worker spoke about the positive work staff did with one child after another child made an allegation against him.

The inspector consulted with three children during this visit. The children said that they feel safe and that they can access support from the staff and the manager.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/10/2019	Full	Good
12/09/2018	Full	Good
25/07/2017	Full	Good
30/01/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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, 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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)) This is in relation to only accepting placements for children when the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans, and when the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children and young people has been properly considered.	31 March 2021
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans; de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(xi))	31 March 2021

In particular, ensure that members of staff are provided with the skills to manage behaviour effectively.	
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— understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f))	31 March 2021
The registered person must ensure that— within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	31 March 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: SC036026

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Sheffield City Council

Registered provider address: Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street,
Sheffield S1 2HH

Responsible individual: Carly Speechley

Registered manager: Jill Guess

Inspector

Noel Cooper, Social Care Inspector

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