

SC037647

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority home provides short-break care for up to 3 children with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and/or complex health needs.

There is a new registered manager in post.

Inspection date: 8 July 2022

This monitoring visit

The visit took place after a three-month condition was imposed due to concerns around the registered manager vacancy and staffing complement. The local authority decided to stop the home operating. This enabled the local authority to recruit a suitable manager, train and recruit staff, and consider the ethos and vision of the home. The home has complied with the condition.

Since the condition was imposed, the local authority recruited a new experienced manager. The manager has worked alongside the responsible individual to review practices in the home. The home environment has improved, and all rooms have been redecorated. Children's bedrooms are clean, tidy and freshly decorated. They are ready for children to enjoy a short-break stay.

The home has changed its statement of purpose as it wishes to provide care for up to three children and no longer accept emergency admissions.

There is a full staff team employed at the home. Staff have completed training to ensure that they have the skills to safely care for children. They are enthusiastic about the home reopening and have attended team meetings to understand the ethos and vision for the home.

The previous requirements were not considered at this visit but will be reviewed at the next inspection. The home is ready to provide care for children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/02/2020	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/08/2018	Full	Outstanding
30/11/2017	Full	Outstanding
14/03/2017	Interim	Improved 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 health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 10 (1)(a) (2)(a)(i)) This specifically relates to ensuring that, when necessary, up-to-date emergency or rescue healthcare plans are included in children's care plans.	10 September 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that where children have very complex care needs, any use of mechanical restraint follows a rigorous assessment process and, as with any restraint, be necessary and proportionate. Wherever such restraint is planned, it should be identified within a broad ranging, robust behaviour support plan which aims to bring about the circumstances where continued use of such restraint will no longer be required. In particular, the registered person should ensure that there is appropriate specialist assessment and oversight for children who use beds that prevent their independent exit from them. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 47, paragraph 9.44)
- The registered person should ensure that those with a leadership and/or management role are visible and accessible to staff and able to deliver their leadership and/or management responsibilities. Specifically, they should ensure that staff are given clear instructions about who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the home when they are absent from it. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.7)
- The registered person should ensure that the workforce plan is used to record the continuing professional development needs of staff, including the home's

manager. This specifically relates to training in supporting children's play and communication. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.8)

- The registered person should have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

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: SC037647

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Knowsley MBC, Children's Services, Huyton
Municipal Buildings, 6th Floor, Huyton, Knowsley, Merseyside L36 9YU

Responsible individual: Karen Jude

Registered manager: Julia Nelson

Inspectors

Michelle Edge, Social Care Inspection Manager
Rose Maddocks, Social Care Inspector

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