

SC037657

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides care and accommodation for three children and young people who have social and/or emotional needs.

The registered manager has been registered since March 2017. However, in the absence of the registered manager, an interim manager has been appointed and she is in the process of applying to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 17 February 2020

This monitoring visit

Serious shortfalls were found in safeguarding practice and leadership and management during a monitoring visit undertaken on 26 November 2019. As a result, Ofsted issued two compliance notices in relation to regulation 12, the protection of children standard, and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. Additionally, a notice restricting accommodation at the home was issued under the Care Standards Act 2000.

A further monitoring visit was undertaken on 7 January 2020, to assess the actions taken by the provider to comply with the notices. During that visit, the inspector found that the provider had not taken sufficient action to comply with the notices. As a result, two further notices were issued under regulation 12 and regulation 13. Furthermore, the notice restricting accommodation at the home remained in place.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to assess whether the provider had taken sufficient action to comply with the two notices.

The children's risk assessments are up to date and clearly identify the strategies for managing risk, for example unsafe mobile phone use. Increased monitoring of the children's mobile phone use is ensuring that the staff are quickly alerted to potential

safeguarding concerns. Improved risk assessments and consistency in the staff's practice are enhancing the children's welfare and safety.

The staff's engagement with the children has improved. Regular direct-work sessions are helping the children to reflect on their behaviour and develop skills to keep themselves safe. Furthermore, these direct-work sessions are helping the staff to nurture trusting relationships with the children.

The children's risk-taking behaviour has significantly reduced. There have not been any incidents of the children going missing from the home since the last monitoring visit. Although unsafe mobile phone use continues to be a concern, the staff are now managing this appropriately. The inspector observed the staff sharing information with a specialist child sexual exploitation team, which demonstrates an improvement in the staff's understanding of their own and other professionals' safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

The children are now benefiting from consistent routines, boundaries and guidance. They are now coming home at the agreed times and are settling at bedtime. Additionally, the staff make sure that they know where the children are when they are away from the home. These improvements have significantly enhanced the children's welfare and safety and made the home a safe, peaceful and welcoming home environment.

The management oversight of the home has much improved. The staff team is now getting regular and consistent guidance and support from the interim manager. Furthermore, a recent staff development day provided the team with the opportunity to reflect and focus on improving their practice. . As a result, team-working and consistency in practice have improved.

The independent monitoring of the home is thorough. There is strong evidence of the interim manager using this independent scrutiny to make continuous improvements in the home.

Overall, the provider has taken sufficient action to satisfactorily address the two compliance notices. No further enforcement action is planned and the notice restricting accommodation at the home has been removed. A further inspection will take place to review how these improvements have been embedded and sustained.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/04/2019	Full	Good
19/04/2018	Full	Good
24/05/2017	Full	Good
07/02/2017	Interim	Declined in 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 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. (Regulation 11 (1))	16/02/2020
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. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(2)(a))	16/02/2020

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: SC037657

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: Ruth France

Registered manager: James De Turberville

Interim manager: Julia Donnelly

Inspector

Marina Tully, social care inspector

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