

SC039673

Lancashire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a local authority. It provides care for up to six young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in December 2019.

Inspection date: 1 July 2020

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged as outstanding at the last inspection in January 2020.

Since the last inspection, Ofsted has received several notifications of significant events that have occurred in the home. Information in the notifications raised concerns regarding the management of risks to young people's safety and well-being. Therefore, a decision was made to conduct a monitoring inspection.

A monitoring inspection was carried out. Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus) government restrictions, the inspection took place using remote inspection methodology.

There have been recent concerns regarding an escalation of high-risk behaviour for two young people. It is evident that managers and staff have been quick to recognise the increasing risks and have taken action to address them.

There is a good level of multi-agency working to help ensure that young people's safety and well-being are protected. The manager has frequently requested strategy and care planning meetings with all the relevant professionals. The manager has advocated well for young people and ensured that plans to manage increasing risks are considered and agreed by all agencies.

Risk management plans have been frequently updated to reflect new information and provide up-to-date guidance. However, some aspects of risk management plans could be clearer. For example, one young person's risk management plan refers to making 'regular' checks on her when she is in her bedroom. Staff may interpret the term 'regular' in different ways and, therefore, this guidance should be more specific.

Some inconsistencies were noted in one young person's risk management plans. These had occurred because one part of her plan had been updated and another had not. In discussion, the manager recognised this as potentially confusing for staff and made arrangements to correct the information immediately.

The record of a serious incident that recently took place lacked clear information regarding actions taken by staff leading up to the incident. Therefore, it was not possible to ascertain whether the young person's risk management plan had been consistently followed.

The manager was able to demonstrate that he has identified shortfalls and areas for improvement in recording, which he is addressing. It was also confirmed during this inspection that plans to support young people have been reviewed and updated. Staff spoken with demonstrated a good understanding of the plans and the actions required from them to keep young people safe.

A requirement has been raised as a result of this inspection. Ofsted will continue to monitor the home's progress in relation to the requirement and any further significant incidents that occur in the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/01/2020	Full	Outstanding
11/12/2018	Full	Outstanding
11/12/2017	Full	Outstanding
10/02/2017	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 protection of children standard 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— 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. Regulation 12(1)(2)(a)(i)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff are provided with and follow clear risk management guidance at all times.	07/08/2020

Recommendations

- Staff should continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5). Specifically, individual risk assessments should cover all known risk areas and should detail the control measures and strategies in place to safeguard the young person.
- Children's care plans should reflect that they are receiving care which meets their needs and promotes their welfare, taking into account the child's gender, religion, ethnicity, cultural and linguistic background, sexual identity, mental health, any disability, their assessed needs, previous experiences and any relevant plans. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.2)

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: SC039673

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Registered provider address: PO Box 78, County Hall, Fishergate, Preston PR1 8XJ

Responsible individual: Michael Nunn

Registered manager: James Smith

Inspector

Marie Cordingley, social care inspector

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