

SC039897

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is one of four local authority homes. It is registered for up to four young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 11 March 2020

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 16 January 2020. This monitoring visit was undertaken to monitor the actions the provider has taken in respect of the requirements made at the full inspection. There were no children living in the placement at the time of the monitoring visit.

The registered manager is currently absent from work and there is an acting manager in post.

The provider has taken some steps to address the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. For example, staff, including the acting manager, now have regular supervision. The acting manager has started to complete actions identified in the home's action plan to make improvements to the quality of care provided to children.

The provider also recognises that it is not ready to admit children to the home at this time. The organisation has agreed to a refurbishment of the home, with the expected timescale for completion being two to three months.

There is not a full staff team and existing staff have still not completed all of the required training, for example self-harm training. As a result, the provider does not plan to admit any young people for a period of three months and has requested that there is a variation to the home's conditions of registration to reflect this.

Ofsted will not inspect the home while the condition is in place but will visit the provider when it indicates that it wants to reopen the home to ensure that the provider and premises remain fit for registration.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/01/2020	Full	Inadequate
17/07/2018	Full	Outstanding
29/08/2017	Full	Good
21/02/2017	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
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5(a))	03/06/2020
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff maintain regular contact with each child's education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child's education and training and to maximise the child's achievement; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible. (Regulation 8(1)(2)(a)(vi)(viii))	03/06/2020
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. (Regulation 10(1)(a)(b)(c))	03/06/2020
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; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12(1)(2)(a)(i)(vi))	03/06/2020

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— - ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; - ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; - 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; - use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(2)(c)(d)(f)(h))	03/06/2020
The care planning standard is that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14(1)(a))	03/06/2020
A responsible individual must— have the capacity, experience and skills to supervise the management of the home, or the homes, in respect of which the responsible individual is nominated. (Regulation 26(7)(b))	03/06/2020
The registered person may only employ an individual to work at the children's home; or - if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home— - if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— - full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32(2)(a)(b)(3)(d))	03/06/2020
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date. (Regulation 36(1)(a)(b))	03/06/2020

The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—
an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.
(Regulation 40(4)(b))

03/06/2020

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: SC039897

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Council House, Priory Road, Dudley DY1 1HF

Responsible individual: Jake Shaw

Registered manager: Melanie Hollman-Dryden

Inspector

Sarah Billett, social care inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2020