

SC043255

Registered provider: Lincolnshire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority owns this home. It is registered to provide care for up to six children who may require support with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2024.

At the time of the inspection five children were living in the home.

Inspection date: 22 January 2025

This monitoring visit

This home was judged to have serious and widespread failures at the assurance inspection on 12 December 2024. Following the inspection, several statutory requirements were set, and two compliance notices were issued in relation to regulation 12, the protection of children standard and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard.

Ofsted issued a restriction of accommodation notice to ensure that no further children were admitted, given the inspection findings and concerns for this home.

This visit was carried out to judge whether the actions set following the judgement of serious and widespread failures in relation to leadership and management and protection of children have been completed. It was also carried out to ensure the restriction of accommodation notice is being adhered to.

Leaders and managers have worked to improve safeguarding practice. They have introduced new risk assessments in line with children's individual behaviour support plans. These now provide clear and detailed information about the nature and level of risk. Risk assessments are regularly updated and shared with relevant professionals to inform care planning. Managers ensure that staff read and

understand any changes to children's assessments and plans. This helps staff to keep children safe.

Leaders and managers arranged multiple emergency team meetings that have supported staff to understand how to respond to children's concerns. The management team has completed additional training with the workforce. This has given staff the skills needed to recognise children's current needs and to help them understand how to respond in a way that helps children.

Managers have also enhanced staff supervision discussions to incorporate reflective practice and discussions about learning from incidents. As a result, staff have the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the children. Supervision sessions are now also used as an opportunity to reflect, build on existing skills and constantly develop care practices.

Leaders and managers have increased their oversight of incidents. The quality of written reports has significantly improved. Records now have the required clarity, contain all the required information and capture lessons learned to reduce the risk of a reoccurrence. The language used in the reports is child-centred and nurturing. Debrief discussions are carried out with children and staff so that any learning to prevent further incidents can be identified. This process also ensures that any shortfalls in practice can be addressed.

Leaders and managers did not previously follow safeguarding procedures robustly. There was a previous safeguarding concern where the advice from LADO had not been completed. There has since been an audit completed with LADO and all actions are now considered complete. Training has been provided to the staff team and there are now clear processes in place for the staff to follow. Staff show a good knowledge of the revised safeguarding procedures.

Leaders and managers have increased staffing levels in the home. One child has moved out since the last inspection. Leaders and managers now have the capacity for robust oversight and monitoring, which helps focus on supporting staff. The staff report it has been able to spend more time with children, resulting in a significant reduction in incidents.

Leaders and managers understand the areas that still require improvement. They are enthusiastic and committed to improving the experiences and care of children.

Sufficient progress has been made to consider the compliance notices met. The remaining statutory requirements will be considered at the next inspection. The restriction of accommodation notice has been lifted.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/10/2024	Full	Good
05/10/2023	Full	Good
17/01/2023	Full	Outstanding
22/02/2022	Full	Outstanding

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirement

This section sets out the actions that the registered person must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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— help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; and promote opportunities for each child to learn informally. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)) This specifically relates to ensuring that all children are engaging in education, whether within or outside of the home, and that staff are supporting and encouraging this, and supporting routines for children.	14 March 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that all staff are supported to complete the appropriate qualification by the relevant date. ('Guide to Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 53, paragraph 10.12)

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: SC043255

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lincolnshire County Council

Registered provider address: Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices,
Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL

Responsible individual: Tara Jones

Registered manager: Kelsie Tyrrell

Inspector

Eleanor Quanbrough, Social Care Inspector

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