

SC051513

Nottinghamshire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority home providing care for up to four children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or a hearing impairment.

Inspection date: 23 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit considered concerns identified from notifications shared with Ofsted. Monitoring was undertaken remotely.

There have been a number of children admitted to the home in an emergency and/or for short-term placements. This has resulted in some disruption for children for whom this home is their longer-term placement.

Children have not experienced stable care. Some children have said that they have not felt safe at times and that they have not had a settled environment in which to study and undertake home schooling.

Managers and staff need to consider how they can prepare effectively for and work with children moving into the home in an emergency and children who are in crisis.

There has been a safeguarding concern involving two children. The combination of their individual needs increased the risk of harm to both. The risk assessments for both children were not sufficiently robust and staff supervision and monitoring was not sufficiently vigilant. Following the review of a safeguarding incident, a decision was made that one child should move from the home. This incident highlighted a need for clear boundaries regarding the use of digital technology by children from the start of their placements. There is a need to enhance staff skills and understanding of the risks associated with the use of digital technology.

On another occasion, one child moved into the home and significantly unsettled another child. Staff struggled to manage their combined behaviours. As a result of

incidents of threats, aggression and damage in the home there was an increase in staff absence and an increase in the use of relief and agency staff. This was disruptive for the children living in the home.

Managers need to consider what skills and knowledge staff need to identify and respond to risks and behaviours as they emerge. A requirement set at the previous inspection regarding working effectively with children's behaviours has not been met.

There have been a relatively low number of complaints from children. However, the records are poor. They do not demonstrate a thoughtful, respectful response to the child's voice. Managers need to review the complaints processes to ensure that they are child friendly and sufficiently thorough. They also need to review when a complaint should be considered under the home's bullying policy.

Recently, the home has been more settled. There have been fewer incidents within the home and a reduced use of agency or relief staff to care for children.

For one child, there have been a number of relatively short missing-from-care incidents. Return home interviews have been undertaken. Managers and staff are following safeguarding procedures and multi-agency meetings have been convened to assess the reasons and put measures in place to reduce the concerns. The care plan for this child needs to be reviewed.

The requirements set at the previous inspection have not been fully reviewed at this visit and will remain in place. The progress in meeting these requirements, in addition to the requirements arising from this visit, will be considered at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/05/2019	Full	Good
05/06/2018	Full	Good
10/07/2017	Full	Good
12/10/2016	Full	Good

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; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. 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; understand the child's health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child's health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii))	5 April 2021
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. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i))	5 April 2021

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. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— encourage each child to take responsibility for the child's behaviour, in accordance with the child's age and understanding; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child's age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(iii)(v)(vi))	5 April 2021
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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;	5 April 2021

manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii))	
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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))	5 April 2021
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)) This specifically relates to managers needing to consider what resources and skills are required for staff and managers to meet effectively the needs of children for whom this home is their longer-term placement and for children in crisis who move in on a short-term, emergency basis. Managers also need to review the quality of care planning for children.	5 April 2021

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: SC051513

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Nottinghamshire County Council

Registered provider address: Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

Responsible individual: Devon Allen

Registered manager: Diane Beckitt

Inspector

Cathey Moriarty, Social Care Inspector

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