

SC052744

Registered provider: Quality Protects Children Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care for up to five children with learning disabilities.

The manager post is vacant.

At the time of the inspection, four children were living in the home.

Inspection date: 15 August 2024

This monitoring visit

Since the last inspection, in November 2023, there have been three allegations of physical harm against children by different members of staff working in the home.

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken by managers and staff to ensure children are safe and to determine if the allegations were managed in accordance with statutory guidance.

Staff do not always follow procedures when there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. On one occasion, a member of staff did not report an allegation of physical abuse to a manager in line with the provider's safeguarding policies. Another member of staff advised a colleague not to report an allegation unless the child made a complaint.

Leaders and managers followed safeguarding procedures once they became aware of the allegation and put strategies in place to protect children. Further action was taken by managers to address the shortfalls in staff safeguarding practice.

Swift action has been taken by managers to safeguard the children following recent allegations. The concerns were immediately shared with the placing and host local authority as required and a record of that referral is retained.

There are clear records of all the allegations that have been made. The records include details of how allegations have been followed up, decisions made and any action taken.

Following the recent allegations, leaders and managers have worked hard to ensure that all staff are clear about, and follow, procedures in relation to dealing with allegations involving staff in the home. Safeguarding and whistleblowing procedures have been explored during individual supervision sessions with staff. This has been discussed in team meetings, and all staff have been provided with a copy of the policies. Staff spoken to during the visit knew what to do when presented with different safeguarding scenarios.

Leaders and managers are committed to creating an open culture where disclosures are welcome. Staff say they feel more able to share concerns with managers and challenge colleagues.

Support has been provided to the children involved, and the members of staff who have had an allegation made against them. Reflective sessions have taken place with the children on each occasion, offering them reassurance and an opportunity to share their views, wishes and feelings if they want to. This has been in accordance with any ongoing investigations.

Children spoken to confirmed that they knew how to make a complaint. However, one child who has recently moved into the home said that they would not "snitch" if a member of staff hurt them. This means that action may not be taken to safeguard the child and other children living in the home.

Managers ensure that the children have access to independent professionals who do not work in the home and the on-site school. The children are supported to speak to the independent person when they visit, and one child has recently been referred to an advocacy service.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/12/2022	Full	Good
26/04/2021	Full	Good
09/07/2019	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, The 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 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— have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; 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; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm; and that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Requirement 12 (1) (2)(a)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(e)) The registered person must ensure that all staff have the skills to identify that a child is at risk of harm, and that they take effective and timely action to safeguard a child. Furthermore, the registered person must ensure that all staff have a working knowledge of the home's safeguarding policies and understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe.	19 September 2024

Recommendations

The registered person should ensure that each child knows what safe care is and how to report any allegations. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including quality standards', page 44, paragraph 9.17)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC052744

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Quality Protects Children Limited

Registered provider address: Hill House, Archway Road, Huyton, Liverpool L36 9XB

Responsible individual: Anthony Nolan

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Dawn Walker, Regulatory Social Care Inspector

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