

Monitoring report for a Children's Home

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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home provides care and accommodation for up to five young people who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home is managed by the local authority.

Outcome of monitoring visit

The purpose of this visit was to assess compliance with a notice served on the provider on 23 October 2014.

On 9 October 2014 an interim inspection was undertaken and the home judged to have declined in effectiveness. The social care regulatory inspector undertaking the interim inspection found that young people were not kept safe and in particular, concerns about ineffective behaviour management, high levels of incidents of missing from home and poor planning of admissions. A compliance notice was issued under Regulation 11 to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of the young people accommodated at the home. In addition, 11 statutory requirements and two recommendations were issued.

The registered provider has made significant changes and progress in order for Ofsted to lift the compliance notice. However, there remain some shortfalls and areas of concern regarding behaviour management. The registered provider must submit an action plan by 5 December 2014 to demonstrate how the four identified requirements will be met to address the following failings.

- 1) Since the last inspection, physical intervention has occurred once and prone restraint was used. This method of restraint is unacceptable and must cease.
- 2) Routine practice to lock doors at 22:00 to prevent young people from getting out of the home is a restriction of liberty and must not be used as a form of behaviour management.
- 3) The registered person failed to notify Ofsted of a serious incident necessitating calling the police to the home, in relation to a young person missing from care for three days.
- 4) The quality of the reporting by the independent person who visits the home once a month is poor. It lacks scrutiny and analysis and therefore fails to report an accurate account on the quality of care provided and way the home is managed.

Notable improvements have been made to minimise the number of incidents of young people missing from care. Young people are engaging well with activity planners and a reward system. They enjoy spending time with staff doing purposeful activities in the home and out in the local community. Individual protocols, as agreed by social workers, support residential staff on what action to take if a young person is missing from care. The quality of recording has improved to provide a clear account of action taken to locate missing young people. Care plans and risk assessments are suitably updated.

Staff report that the revised systems for record keeping and policies support their daily practice. They are clear on the procedure to follow when a young person is referred for a placement, supported by a checklist of documentation and action to take. The policies on smoking have been discussed and re-issued. Staff training has occurred on raising awareness of drug and alcohol mis-use. Some staff have received a refresher on the use of physical intervention with training for an alternative use to prone restraint however, not all staff have undertaken this training yet.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
30 (2001)	ensure that if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 take place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table (Regulation 30(1))	13/11/2014
17A (2001)	ensure that when a measure of restraint is used on a child accommodated in the children's home the measure of restraint must be proportionate, and no more force than is necessary is used (Regulation 17A(2))	13/11/2014
17 (2001)	ensure that no measure of control or discipline which is excessive, unreasonable or contrary to paragraph (2) shall be used at any time on children accommodated in a children's home. In particular, restriction of liberty through locked doors (Regulation 17 (1))	26/11/2014
33 (2001)	ensure that the independent person is engaged pursuant to a contract of service or a contract for services which provide that he is to critically examine and scrutinise- the way that the children's home is carried on or managed; and the quality of care that the children's home provides for children accommodated there. (Regulation 33 (3)(a)(b))	31/12/2014
30 (2001)	ensure that if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 take place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table (Regulation 30(1))	26/11/2014
17A (2001)	ensure that when a measure of restraint is used on a child accommodated in the children's home the measure of restraint must be proportionate, and no more force than is necessary is	26/11/2014

	used. (Regulation 17A(2))	
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About this monitoring visit

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and progress made by the Children's Home following an Ofsted inspection.