

SC061439

Registered provider: Young Foundations Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for up to five children who may have social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities and/or mental disorders.

There were five children living at the home at the time of the visit.

There is currently no registered manager in place. A manager has been appointed but has yet to be registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 26 April 2022

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out to investigate potential breaches of regulations, following information shared with Ofsted that indicated risks of harm to children.

The visit included a review of the children's documents, observations of a child's bedroom, and separate discussions with a child, the manager and staff.

There has been a deterioration in the standards of care that children receive. Children who are at risk of self-harm have not been adequately protected.

The manager and staff are aware that children bring items into the home for the purpose of self-harming. Children then hide these items in their bedrooms and later use them to self-harm.

Staff guidance around when and how to carry out a room search lacks clear instructions. This guidance is also generic despite the different self-harming behaviours of the children who live at this home. As a result, room searches are not carried out properly or consistently and children are able to store up items.

In addition, most room searches are not recorded in detail. This means that management oversight is poor. It also means that children's views are not obtained and their voice is not heard.

Staff have a good understanding of the children's individual risks, triggers and warning signs. Risk assessments are regularly updated and the manager communicates swiftly to all staff following a significant incident or change to a child's care plan. However, children are not always supervised in line with their care plans. When children have stated that they feel suicidal or have recently self-harmed, they have sometimes been left alone. Children have then gone on to self-harm. On one recent occasion, this was so serious that the child required hospitalisation. One child told the inspector that she felt 'unhappy' with staff that she had been left alone.

Staff have failed to remove items from children which they have used to self-harm. Children have gone on to self-harm again with the same items. This does not help children feel valued or cared for.

Children are not always helped to learn about the impact their behaviours may have on others. They are not provided with different coping strategies. As a result, behaviours continue. This is a lost opportunity for positive change to be made in a child's life.

Newer staff are not trained to respond to children's self-harming behaviours. This was addressed during the inspection by the manager, with training booked for all outstanding staff members. In the interim, there are always experienced and trained members of staff on every shift. This means that the children have access to staff who are knowledgeable and skilled.

Following the inspection, the manager provided Ofsted with a plan which provides actions to address all of the shortfalls identified. This is a positive step.

The previously issued requirements from the last full inspection were not reviewed at this monitoring visit. They will be considered at the next full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/09/2021	Full	Good
27/08/2019	Full	Good
31/07/2018	Full	Outstanding
11/07/2017	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 positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— 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— help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; 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; and that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(b)(c) (2)(a)(ii)(iii)(v)(b))	5 June 2022
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	5 June 2022

necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child;

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; and

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.

(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b))

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: SC061439

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Young Foundations Limited

Registered provider address: 7 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD

Responsible individual: Nicola Dixon

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Emma Ridley, Social Care Inspector

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