

SC062248

Registered provider: Quality Protects Children Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a small private organisation. The home is registered to provide care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities. There is also a school in the grounds of the home.

The inspectors only inspected the social care provision on this site.

At the time of this inspection, there were no children living in the home.

A new manager has been in post since 23 June 2023 and has applied to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 31 August 2023

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 13 and 14 June 2023. Following that inspection, Ofsted issued a notice restricting accommodation to prevent any further children moving into the home.

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the provider's compliance with the notice restricting accommodation and to consider any progress made to improve the quality of care.

At the time of this visit, no children were living in the home. No children have moved into the home since the last inspection. The provider is complying with the notice restricting accommodation.

The inspectors found that leaders and managers have taken steps to address the shortfalls in the quality of care and protection in relation to children. The new manager has ensured that all staff have completed interactive training and workshops in key areas, including in safeguarding, professional curiosity, behaviour

management and recording. This has helped to enhance staff's knowledge and understanding, particularly around their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe.

There are now sufficient staff working at the home to meet children's individual needs. The new manager has the relevant skills and experience for the role and has applied to register with Ofsted. The proposed staffing arrangements will ensure that children receive continuity of care. This will enable children to build relationships with the staff team caring for them.

In addition to supervision, the provider has ensured that there are new systems in place to provide staff with support and guidance. The feedback from staff regarding the changes is positive and staff morale has improved as a result.

At the time of this visit, the home was undergoing significant building work and a new kitchen was due to be fitted. The children's bedrooms are in the process of being redecorated and do not have any furniture.

Following this visit, a case review was held to consider the findings. Due to the progress and the improvements that have been made, Ofsted lifted the notice restricting accommodation. However, due to the extensive building work being undertaken, the home environment is currently not suitable for children to live in. Therefore, Ofsted imposed a condition on the home's registration. This states that the registered person must inform Ofsted of their intention to accommodate children at the home at least three months before any child is accommodated. This will be closely monitored.

Requirements and recommendations that were made at the previous inspection have not been considered as part of this monitoring visit. These will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/06/2023	Full	Inadequate
13/02/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/04/2021	Full	Good
26/06/2019	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— 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; 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; that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(d))	16 October 2023

Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children's risk assessments contain clear information about children's risks and the strategies staff should follow to reduce these. Leaders and managers must ensure that staff take effective action to keep children safe, in line with the plans for their care. Leaders and managers must ensure that issues with damp in the home are addressed to prevent mould.	
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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(f)(h)) Specifically, leaders and managers must improve oversight of significant incidents and staff practice and the quality of care provided to children. Leaders and managers must ensure that staff have the skills and knowledge to meet children's needs.	16 October 2023
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and	16 October 2023

have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that they carefully consider the needs, risks and behaviours of children who are moving into the home and evaluate how they will meet these needs alongside the needs of children already living in the home. They must ensure that they identify and plan to mitigate any potential risks that could affect children.	
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; 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; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child’s relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(viii)(x)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children are helped to develop positive routines that enable them to engage in their education timetable. Further to this, they must encourage and support children to engage in their education plans.	16 October 2023

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— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child’s behaviour, in accordance with the child’s age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; 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 develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship; understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable; and have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them; that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(vii)(xii)(xiii)(b))	16 October 2023
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—	16 October 2023

an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;

there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;

a child protection enquiry involving a child—

is instigated; or

there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.

(Regulation 40 (4)(b)(c)(d)(i)(e))

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: SC062248

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

Inspectors

Jessica Higginson, Social Care Inspector
Miss Jenni Gadsby, Social Care Inspector

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