

SC063550

St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority home is registered to provide care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

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

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2022.

Inspection date: 3 May 2023

This monitoring visit

At the assurance inspection on 28 March 2023, inspectors identified serious and widespread concerns in relation to the care and protection of children.

Following the assurance inspection, two compliance notices were issued under section 22A of the Care Standards Act 2000. These related to regulation 12, the protection of children standard, and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard.

Ofsted also issued a notice restricting accommodation at the home. This notice had immediate effect from 28 March 2023 until 20 June 2023 inclusively.

During this monitoring visit, the inspector confirmed that the registered provider had complied with the conditions of the restriction notice.

The clarity of the children's risk assessments has improved. Risk assessments now clearly identify individual risks for children and the strategies that staff should follow to reduce these risks. Staff understand children's risks and have been proactive in their approach to managing risk.

Direct work has taken place to help children to understand risks and keep themselves safe. This is completed in a timely manner and there is relevant, reactive, and proactive work being undertaken.

Staff have now received training in relevant subjects to develop their skills and knowledge in relation to children's identified needs. There have been numerous opportunities for staff to reflect on the training that they have received.

The manager has made improvements in the quality of their monitoring arrangements. The manager has greater oversight of significant events, including the actions taken following these.

Two requirements that were made at the assurance inspection were not considered as part of this visit. Therefore, these are restated below.

A case review was held following this visit. It was the decision of the case reviewer that the compliance notices have been met. The notice restricting accommodation at the home was lifted.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/08/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/03/2022	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
13/09/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/11/2019	Full	Inadequate

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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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; 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; 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 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;	2 July 2023

help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(ix))	
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; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; 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. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children who do not attend school are supported to get back into education as soon as possible, and are encouraged to complete any home learning to support their learning. Further to this, the registered person must ensure that they have relevant plans in place to support understanding of children's educational needs.	2 July 2023

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: SC063550

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Children & Young Peoples Services, Atlas House, 2 Corporation Street, St Helens, Merseyside WA9 1LD

Responsible individual: Fiona Woods

Registered manager: Julie Williams

Inspector

Emma Thornton, Social Care Inspector

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