

SC063683

Registered provider: Manchester City Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a local authority and is registered to care for up to six children who may experience social or emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since March 2018.

Inspection date: 25 January 2023

This monitoring visit

This visit took place in response to complaints received by Ofsted about the safety and well-being of children living at the home. The home received an assurance inspection on 22 November 2022.

Managers and staff are vigilant in monitoring challenging dynamics in relationships between children. Staff, the children's social workers and senior managers in the local authority continue to address concerns about safety in relation to living in the home. Senior managers have conducted several investigations to ensure that the staff are following the safeguarding procedures in place.

Records show that there have been no instances of physical bullying for several months. Staff proactively follow procedures to increase supervision and support when children are at home. Any negative verbal interactions are addressed with children through direct work and the use of incentives.

Waking staff are present throughout the night to ensure that children are not disturbing one another, for example by playing loud music or attempting to access each other's bedrooms. Staff remain in the vicinity of children's bedrooms to monitor when children settle in their rooms or get up during the night. Other children living at the home do not report that children play music loudly on a regular basis. This reflects the records kept by the staff, which also document children's movements.

There are no signs of damage or marks on a child's door to indicate any attempt to access the bedroom by force.

Records show that a child's medication is not being administered in accordance with the frequency prescribed. On some days, there is no indication that the medication is offered. This does not promote improvement to the child's health condition.

An investigation has taken place in response to an allegation made by a child against a member of staff. However, the allegation was not notified to Ofsted by the responsible individual to allow regulatory oversight of the action taken.

The kitchen is no longer locked. However, some doors to other shared living areas are locked, particularly at night. There are no specific safeguarding reasons for this practice, which prevents children from freely accessing areas of their home. The recommendation from the last assurance inspection is now made as a requirement.

The home's central heating system has not been working effectively. Issues have already been addressed on the upper floors, but the ground-floor heating was not working properly during the visit. A further appointment has been made with heating engineers to return to remedy the problem.

Staff say that they feel supported by the deputy manager, who is leading the team in the manager's absence. They have needed to be adaptable in supporting new staff joining the team. Consistent agency staff continue to work in the home.

The requirement and other recommendations made at the assurance inspection were not considered during the monitoring visit. These are therefore carried over to the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/08/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/06/2021	Full	Good
25/09/2019	Full	Good
14/08/2018	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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's homes overall aims and outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff— treat each child with dignity and respect; provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need on order to live their comfortably; ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(iii)(vii)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to the registered person: ensuring that all floor and window coverings are well maintained and free from hazards; ensuring that the home is decorated and furnished to a high standard throughout;	21 March 2023

reviewing the use of external window restrictors; and personalising any rules or routines implemented around Wi-Fi access and visitors to the home to meet the individual needs of each child/person.	
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; and a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)(c)) Specifically, ensure that medication is administered in accordance with the prescribed frequency.	21 March 2023
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; and is necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)) In particular, doors to shared living areas should not be locked.	21 March 2023
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there. (Regulation 40 (4)(c))	21 March 2023

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that any registered manager employed in the home has sufficient capacity to ensure that the quality standards are met for each child. This recommendation was made at the last inspection and is restated. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.7)
- The registered person should ensure that when incidents of bullying occur between children, they are supported to understand the impact of their behaviours and the actions being taken to address any concerns. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.12)

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: SC063683

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Manchester City Council

Registered provider address: Town Hall Extension, Albert Square, Manchester
M60 2LA

Responsible individual: Sean McKendrick

Registered manager: Esther Smith

Inspector

Karen Willson, Social Care Inspector

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