

SC064663

Registered provider: Eastfield Group

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care and accommodation for up to seven children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 2018.

Inspection date: 14 December 2021

This monitoring visit

This home was judged inadequate at a full inspection on 26 and 27 October 2021. The inspector identified serious and widespread poor practice at the home.

The purpose of this visit was to assess the progress made by the provider regarding compliance notices 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).

The managers have reviewed and updated the children's risk management plans. The staff have had additional training and now understand and demonstrate the actions they need to take to keep children safe. There are better systems in place to monitor the staff team's knowledge and response.

The provider has taken steps to improve staff responses to all safeguarding concerns. Team meetings have taken place, overseen by the responsible individual. At the meetings, staff's roles and responsibilities with regards to safeguarding practices were re-enforced. Senior managers had also scheduled one-to-one supervision sessions with all staff members to ensure that the information provided at the meeting was embedded in their day-to-day practice.

Senior managers have developed assurance systems to ensure that the staff develop plans that reflect children's individual needs and track their progress. Senior team members provide support and guidance to the whole staff team. This means that there is greater consistency in how the team works to support children in line with the statement of purpose. Staff report feeling more positive and confident in their roles.

There are several review systems now in place with clear lines of accountability. Specific meetings are held regularly with key members from across the organisation to review children's plans. This ensures that children's plans are updated promptly to provide practice guidance for the staff and to track children's progress and experiences more effectively.

New documentation is in place to ensure that all children's needs are assessed prior to them coming to live at the home. The new pre-admission planning processes now incorporate an assessment of the skills and experience of the staff team to ensure they can meet the needs of the child. No new children have moved to the home to test its effectiveness. However, the responsible individual will have oversight of all future referrals.

The provider has demonstrated adequate progress to meet the steps of the compliance notices. No further enforcement action is planned in respect of these specific standards. However, a further inspection will take place to review how these improvements are being embedded into staff's practice. A number of requirements were not explored as part of this monitoring visit and will be reviewed as part of the home's next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/10/2021	Full	Inadequate
09/04/2019	Full	Good
12/06/2018	Full	Good
31/08/2017	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 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; support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; 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; raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vii)) This specifically relates to children's educational needs and targets being contained in their plans. It also relates to staff having a good understanding of these needs and goals to help children to achieve their full potential.	21 January 2022
The care planning standard is that children—	21 January 2022

receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. The registered person must ensure that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(a)) This specifically relates to children's plans being individualised. This also relates to staff being able to meet children's individual needs, before they move into the home.	
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ('the user'), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;	21 January 2022

within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) This specifically relates to recording of physical interventions. De-escalation strategies must be implemented and recorded. Debriefs must take place with staff and children who are involved in physical interventions by somebody who was not involved in the intervention.	
The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; ensure that the records are kept up to date. (Regulation 37 (2)(a)(b)) This relates to there being a clear and accurate account of who is caring for the children in their home and day-to-day accountability.	21 January 2022

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: SC064663

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Eastfield Group

Registered provider address: Eastfield Group, 6d Ryeground House, 6b Ryeground Lane, Formby, Merseyside L37 7EQ

Responsible individual: Ivy Thompson

Registered manager: Christina Wood

Inspector

Elaine Allison , Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2021