

SC066916

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a private provider. It is registered to provide care for up to four children who may experience social or emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2011.

Inspection date: 10 August 2022

This monitoring visit

The home was judged inadequate at a full inspection which took place on 21 and 22 June 2022. Three compliance notices were issued under section 22a of the Care Standards Act 2000, in relation to regulation 12 (the protection of children standard), regulation 14 (the care planning standard) and regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard).

This visit took place to assess the progress made by the provider to meet the steps of the notices.

Since the full inspection, one child has moved from the home. One child remains living there. The child is aware that they will be moving to a new home.

Risks to children's safety are now clearly assessed. Plans provide clear guidance for the staff to take action to reduce the risks. The manager attends multi-agency meetings to share information that helps to assess and review risks to children.

The manager uses team meetings and individual supervision meetings to ensure that the staff understand their roles and responsibilities and the arrangements in place to reduce the risks to children's safety. The staff carry out direct work with children to help them to understand how to keep themselves safer.

New care plans are in place. They are reviewed regularly so that they contain information about children's current needs and make sure that day-to-day care

planning is more effective. The manager uses systems to assure herself that the staff read and understand the new format of the plans and follow them.

The staff have received training so that they have a better understanding of attachment and trauma to inform their practice.

The manager has developed new internal monitoring systems. These ensure that the staff are taking action to reduce the risks to children. The manager's oversight helps to drive improvements in practice. The manager regularly reviews the quality of direct work carried out with children. Any shortfalls in practice are addressed promptly.

A new independent person now carries out external monitoring visits. However, the quality of reports needs to improve so that they support the manager's understanding of the care provided in the home. A requirement is made to address this.

Further requirements and recommendations made at the full inspection were not considered at this visit.

The decision from the case review was that the provider has demonstrated sufficient progress to meet the steps of the compliance notices.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/06/2022	Full	Inadequate
15/03/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
25/02/2020	Full	Outstanding
16/01/2019	Full	Outstanding

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 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; maintain regular contact with each child's education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child's education and training and to maximise the child's achievement; 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;	8 August 2022

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)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(viii)(x))	
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (1) (3)(a)(b)) This relates to ensuring that the statement of purpose describes the staffing structure of the home and the arrangements in place for caring for children at night. In addition, the statement of purpose should be updated with the details of the current staff team.	8 August 2022
The registered person must ensure that— the privacy of children is appropriately protected; children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises. (Regulation 21 (a)(b)) This relates to ensuring that there is appropriate private accommodation and furnishings for staff who sleep in the home overnight. The provision of this accommodation should not impinge on the rights of children to access all appropriate areas of their home.	8 August 2022
The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether— children are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being. The independent person's report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home	25 September 2022

and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions.
(Regulation 44 (4)(a)(b) (5))

Specifically, the report should support the manager's understanding of the quality of care provided to drive improvement.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that improvements are made to the children's bathroom to ensure that it is well maintained. There should be adequate storage for children's toiletries and it should be furnished with necessary items, including hand towels and a toilet roll holder. ('Guide to the Children's Homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that staff record information about children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact and opinion. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that is helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure that the responsible local authority is challenged if an independent return home interview is not offered to a child who has returned after a period of being missing from care. In addition, the responsible person should ensure that they take account of information provided by the local authority in relation to this interview. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)

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: SC066916

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Elaine Cooke

Inspector

Karen Willson, Social Care Inspector

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