

SC356963

Registered provider: Kirklees Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority operates this home. It provides care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, three children and one young person, who had recently turned 18, were living in the home. All four were spoken with.

The statement of purpose states that the staff are trained to apply a specific model of care.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2018 and is suitably qualified for the role.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 October 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 23 October 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
01/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/05/2023	Full	Inadequate
14/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Some children have lived in the home for a significant period. Notably, all children, who are varied in age, have invested in their home. This can be seen from how staff have supported children to personalise their bedrooms. Additionally, communal areas are comfortable and feel homely.

Children's parents say that they feel positive and are reassured by the care that their children receive. Importantly, parents are encouraged to visit their children at the home and stay for tea. Furthermore, some parents appreciated the efforts that staff make to support quality visits with their children and wider family members.

Although children are experiencing mixed educational outcomes, the manager has established strong links with the virtual school. As a result, the virtual school are consistently engaged with children who are experiencing significant barriers associated with accessing appropriate and suitable education provision.

Staff have improved the way that they capture each child's day in the children's written records. In the main, staff write with love and care. In doing so, the children are likely to connect and relate to their written records. This will be significant if children choose to read back on their written records, particularly in adulthood.

A lack of creativity associated with planning some of the children's care undermines some of the positive experiences that children have. An example being that children are overburdened with corporate budgeting around planning activities. A further example is around uninspiring daily routines for some children. Encouragingly, leaders and managers reflected and understood that certain practices were in need of review.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

There is good collaborative work with safeguarding agencies. Direct work with community police officers ensures that there is a joined-up approach to addressing any worries in the community associated with the children. This is strengthened through daily multi-agency risk-management meetings.

A psychologist frequently meets with the team to support staff practice and care of the children. Staff say that they value this input as it deepens their awareness around how the children's experiences influence the child's behaviour. The psychologist provides suggestions of approaches staff could adopt when supporting children through difficult times.

The manager makes good efforts to develop an understanding of any forming patterns associated with the children's behaviour in the community. Furthermore, staff are persistent and active in their efforts to locate children when their whereabouts are not

known. Again, there is good multi-agency collaboration associated with this aspect of the children's care.

Staff are confident and consistent in managing risks associated with the children's lives. This is helped through good communication in the team and children's risk assessments being clear. However, in one instance, strategies to deter a child from smoking in the home have incurred unintended consequences on that child's sleep.

Children feel safe to raise any concerns around how their care is managed. Additionally, the manager transparently deals with children's complaints. However, the complaints process is not clear for children to easily understand. Consequently, one young person felt that their complaints were not being actively pursued.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is good information sharing between the manager and children's social workers. This is helped through effective use of the home's electronic recording system. As a result, social workers can quickly and effectively evaluate what the children's care looks like.

The manager has implemented systems that better enable him to positively influence the children's care. This has resulted in improved outcomes for children. Examples include acquiring a clearer picture of children's networks and behaviours in the community, as well as vast improvements being made around how staff record aspects of each child's day. Furthermore, the manager is seeking improved methods for staff to consistently undertake life story work with the children.

Leaders and managers have ensured that their policies enable children to reach adulthood with the best chance of succeeding. For one young person, this has enabled them to pass their driving test. Furthermore, staff are expected to ensure that children on the cusp of adulthood have bank accounts, passports and good links are made with the child's personal assistant.

Team meetings are frequent and well-attended by staff. Importantly, staff are willing and able to contribute their views on the children's care and how the home is run. Moreover, the team meeting agenda is structured so staff are better focused and prepared.

Although leaders have identified training that will promote a trauma-informed approach to care, this is in its infancy. Some staff practices do not reflect the model of care that is highlighted in the home's statement of purpose. Therefore, this aspect of the statement of purpose is misleading.

Staff do not receive frequent supervision sessions or have meaningful annual appraisals of their performance. Consequently, the manager is missing a significant opportunity to reinforce reflection, learning, development and accountability.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14 (1) (a))	1 December 2025
The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it. (Regulation 16 (3)(a))	1 December 2025
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4) (b)(c))	1 December 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that children are aware of the complaints procedure and the process it takes. Additionally, children being regularly updated about the actions being taken to address their complaint. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.13)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC356963

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Kirklees Council

Registered provider address: Civic 3, Market Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire
HD1 2EY

Responsible individual: Joel Hanna

Registered manager: Benjamin Lancaster

Inspectors

Steve Guirey, Social Care Inspector (lead)
Mel Turner, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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