

SC356963

Registered provider: Kirklees Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and run by a local authority. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children or young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 21 November 2017

Judgement at last inspection: Requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 10 July 2017

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

The risk of a fire starting in this home is high. This is putting the young people's and staff's lives in danger. Insufficient action to prevent fire has been taken since a mattress and a pillow were recently set on fire. Some of the young people continue to smoke in their bedrooms and around the home. They have free access to cigarette lighters. This worries some of the young people. One young person commented: 'I feel unsafe. I don't want my belongings burnt down.'

Some of the young people are in danger of being physically and emotionally harmed through being exposed to child sexual exploitation. The staff team does not always take immediate action to keep the young people safe. Consequently, some of the young people known to be at high risk of being sexually exploited are in danger when they are

missing on a daily basis. Some leave the home and get into cars with people that the staff do not know. The staff team does not always act quickly to stop them or find them. These serious incidents are not always reported to the police.

Some of the young people live in extremely dirty bedrooms. Their floors have numerous cigarette ends and old food and drink on them. Some of the young people's clothes are scattered about the rooms. Their rooms smell heavily of smoke and their mattresses and walls are stained from the young people stubbing cigarettes out on them. This is not providing the young people with a safe or cared for environment. It is not teaching them to aspire to high standards now or in the future.

Some of the young people's physical and emotional health is suffering. Some of the young people regularly use sharp objects to harm themselves. Some young people smoke and use illegal substances. Others who have never tried this before join in. Consequently, one young person has been rushed to hospital after suffering a seizure triggered by illegal substance misuse. The actions taken by staff to support young people under the influence of illegal substances or alcohol are not always clear.

Individual missing risk assessments do not provide the staff with the information needed to find missing young people. Information is not used effectively to keep the young people safe. The young people's risk assessments do not contain places where the missing young people are found or their known associates. Where risk assessments are up to date, the staff team is not always following the actions to reduce the risks.

Some young people do not feel safe in this home. One young person commented: 'I feel unsafe about where I live. The police have to come here. The others are assaulting staff and they do not come here to be beaten.' As a result, the young people are living in a chaotic and at times violent environment. This is affecting the young people's ability to make any progress.

When new young people move into this home, the assessment of their needs is poor. As a result, the young people's needs are conflicting with others' and their behaviours are significantly influencing each other negatively. The young people who have previously been settled start to engage in negative activities such as committing criminal offences. This is likely to affect their future life chances.

Some of the young people have poor daily routines. They stay in bed for most of the day and they are up late at night. This is affecting their ability to attend education. Some do not engage with education at all. One of the young people commented: 'My education has suffered because we don't settle on a night. It stopped me going to school. I'm behind at school now.'

The manager's monitoring of this home is poor. As a result, they are not always aware of significant safeguarding incidents. This is hindering their ability to track information which could help to manage risk and protect the young people. The senior staff who are responsible for this home, including the responsible individual, are not always made aware of serious incidents. This is preventing them from ensuring that the staff team is

taking the correct action to keep the young people safe. There is no responsible individual registered with the regulatory body. This is potentially further hindering the oversight of this service.

The regulatory body is not able to effectively assess safeguarding practice. The managers do not ensure that all serious incidents are notified to the regulatory body. This further hinders oversight of this service.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/07/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
23/03/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
23/08/2016	Full	Requires improvement
31/03/2016	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm. (Regulation 12(2)(a)(iii))	21/01/18
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person. (Regulation 12(2)(a)(v))	31/03/18
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— ensure that the premises used for the purpose 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(2)(c)(i)(ii))	21/01/18
In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— develop the child's interests and hobbies; participate in activities that the child enjoys and which meet and expand the child's interests and preferences. (Regulation 9(2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii))	21/01/18
The education standard is that children make measurable	21/01/18

progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. (Regulation 8(1))	
* If the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (a) applies to the home— the registered person must ensure that the requirements of that Order and any regulations made under it, except for article 23 (duties of employees), are complied with in respect of the home. (Regulation 25(2)(b)) In particular, stop the young people smoking in bedrooms and anywhere in the house.	21/01/18
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; and there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40(4)(e) and (b))	21/01/18
An organisation may only carry on a home if each director of the organisation, except for a director who is the responsible individual, who is involved in the carrying on of a home by that organisation satisfies the requirement in paragraph (6). (Regulation 26(4)(i))	21/01/18

* These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

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 address: Kirklees Council, 30 Market Street, Huddersfield HD1 2HG

Responsible individual: Anne Coyle

Registered manager: Victor Szczesnowicz

Inspector

Jamie Richardson, social care inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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