

SC361789

Registered provider: Cornwall Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or learning difficulties.

The home is owned by a local authority. It is situated near a school for children who have additional needs and a children's home that offers short breaks.

There is currently no registered manager in post.

Inspection date: 3 January 2020

Date of last inspection: 3 September 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

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.

Several requirements which were made at the last inspection have not been met. Due to concerns identified at this current inspection, two of these requirements are now subject to compliance notices.

Unnecessary aids and adaptation that are not required by the children have not been removed. They include a room with padding on the walls currently used as a play room and a bedroom intercom system.

One child is living in self-imposed isolation. He only leaves the home to go out in the car. He has not got out of the car during these trips since the summer months. He is not in education and is making very limited progress in his emotional development. At times of frustration, he can be aggressive towards staff. Staff struggle to manage this behaviour. Staff are also not able to meet all his physical health needs. For example, he has not brushed his teeth for two months. This child has not moved on to a home where staff are able to meet his needs in a timely manner.

The needs of another child who has recently moved to the home are also not fully understood. Support to enable this child to thrive is lacking.

Care planning documents are not effective, which places both the children and the staff at risk of harm. Staff lack the skills and guidance to meet the needs of all the children who live at the home.

Consistency of staffing is poor. This means that children with complex needs are experiencing frequent changes in their caregivers.

Leadership and management are inadequate. There is a lack of clear and effective guidance for staff. There is currently no registered manager in post.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/09/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/03/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/11/2018	Full	Inadequate
15/11/2017	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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— Understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and Uses this understanding to deliver care that meets the children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; protect and promote each child's welfare; help each child to develop resilience and skills that prepare the child to return home, to live in a new placement or to live independently as an adult; make decisions about the day-to-day arrangements for each child, in accordance with the child's relevant plans, which give the child an appropriate degree of freedom and choice; 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; and ensure that any care that is arranged or provided for a child that— relates to the child's development (within the meaning of section 17(11) of the Children Act 1989) or health; and is not arranged or provided as part of the health service continued under section 1(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006(a), satisfies the conditions in paragraph (3). The conditions are— that the care meets the child's needs; that the care is delivered by a person who— has the experience, knowledge and skills to deliver that care. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b)(2)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(vi)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(c)(i)(ii)(d)(i)(ii)	31/01/2020*

(3)(c)(i)) In particular: ▪ Care planning documents must provide clear and robust guidance to ensure that staff understand how to meet the complex needs of children. ▪ Children's short- and long-term goals must be clearly recorded to promote best outcomes. This includes matters such as toileting, oral hygiene etc. ▪ When staff are not able to meet the needs of children, effective early planning must be completed to promote the welfare of children. Specifically, when children need to move to their next home. ▪ Continue to improve the home environment so that it can be as homely as possible. ▪ Remove the padding from the play room. ▪ Remove or conceal irrelevant intercom panels situated throughout the building to reduce the institutional feel.	
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home.	31/01/2020*

(Regulation 13 (1) (a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(e)(f)(g)) In particular: ▪ Appoint and register a manger without delay. ▪ Ensure that the home is managed in a way which provides robust leadership and guidance for staff. ▪ Ensure that staff are provided with clear guidance by leaders and managers. ▪ Leaders and managers must have good oversight of the day to day running of the home and ensure that staff provide care and support that meets children's developing needs. ▪ Ensure that children's needs are kept under review, and staff approaches to these changing needs, skills and outcomes are aspirational for the children and strive to support children to meet their full potential. ▪ Ensure that record-keeping is clear and that staff can access important information easily. ▪ Embed management quality assurance, oversight and monitoring systems. Clarify timescales for actions.	
The behaviour management policies and records standard states 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— (iv) a description of the measure and its duration; (v) details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; (vi) the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; (vii) the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii))	31/01/2020

In particular:

- Information obtained at these times must be analysed and used to inform care planning effectively.

* These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Information about this inspection

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.

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: SC361789

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Cornwall Council, Accounts Payable, PO Box 727,
Truro TR1 9GP

Responsible individual: Tony Phillips-Jones

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Polly Soper, Social Care Inspector
Michelle Oxley, Regulatory Inspection Manager

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