

SC380956

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a local authority. It provides care for up to two children for a period of assessment to assist in future placement planning. At the time of this monitoring visit, no children were living at the home.

The registered manager voluntarily cancelled her registration in March 2021, and an interim manager has been in day-to-day charge of this home. The interim manager submitted a complete application for registration. However, the interim manager is currently not in day-to-day charge of this home.

Ofsted was aware during this inspection of a police investigation into serious allegations about restriction of liberty at the setting. While Ofsted does not have the power to investigate allegations of this kind, actions taken by the setting in response to the allegations were considered, where appropriate, alongside the other evidence available at the time of the inspection to inform the inspector's judgements.

Inspection date: 2 March 2022

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 3 and 4 November 2021. This was because leaders, managers and staff failed to take appropriate action to protect children from the potential risk of serious harm. Furthermore, the home had been without a registered manager since March 2021. As a result of these failures, children's safety was compromised. Ofsted issued three compliance notices under regulation 12, 14 and 20. Ofsted also raised a further six requirements and four recommendations. Action taken to address these requirements and recommendations has not been considered as part of this monitoring visit.

Ofsted carried out a monitoring visit on 14 December 2021. The purpose of that visit was to review the actions taken to meet the compliance notices. The provider had

made limited progress, and further action was necessary to improve the care planning and safety of children. Ofsted reissued the compliance notices under regulation 12, 14 and 20.

Ofsted carried out a further monitoring visit on 11 January 2021. The inspector concluded from this monitoring visit that progress had been made and all steps in regulation 20 had been met. However, two steps in regulation 12 and one step in regulation 14 of the original compliance notices were reissued.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the progress and the actions taken to meet the reissued compliance notices. This monitoring visit included a review of the documents, and discussions and interviews with the senior childcare officer and the service improvement manager for children's residential services, as nominated by the responsible individual. The inspector concluded from this monitoring visit that progress had been made and that the final steps set in the compliance notices were met.

There are no children living at the home. On 15 December 2021, the provider made a request to Ofsted to vary the conditions of registration. Ofsted approved the variation for a temporary closure of the home. The registered person must inform Ofsted of their intention to admit children to the home three months before a child moves into the home. At the time of this monitoring visit, the provider did not request the variation be removed.

The home is still without a registered manager and there is no manager in day-to-day charge of the home. Most of the permanent staff allocated to this home remain absent from work and unable to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

Processes and guidance will aid the staff's understanding and implementation of agreed risk management strategies. The manager's analysis of incident reports will enable the delivery of practice reflection and, where needed, professional challenge to staff. Manager's meetings provide further opportunity to quality assure staff practice through peer reviews and critical learning. In principle, sufficient steps have been taken to ensure that the manager has oversight of staff's understanding of risk and risk management.

The use of ligatures to self-harm was a significant risk for children who previously lived in this home. The staff are now provided with procedural guidance, taken directly from the NHS. This guidance, alongside additional planned training, will aid staff's decision-making about when they should seek medical support following a ligature incident. The developed incident log has a designated section to capture if children required medical attention. As a result of the temporary closure of the home, there have been no incident records for the manager to audit.

No children have moved into or out of the home. Any decision made in the future to move children into this home will be based on an assessment of their needs.

Collaborative working between residential care and children's services means that children's exits from the home will be well planned.

At the time of this monitoring visit, the home conditions are not to an acceptable standard. The home requires maintenance to ensure it is hazard free and safe for children. There has been damage to the home, as well as adaptations which need repairing and restoring. Examples include significant water damage to the bathroom floor, the removal of fire door mechanisms, and transparent plastic is covering some windows.

The remaining six requirements and three recommendations issued in November 2021 have not been reviewed at this visit and are repeated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/11/2021	Full	Inadequate
02/09/2019	Full	Good
04/09/2018	Full	Good
27/09/2017	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. (Regulation 8 (1))	27 February 2022
The registered person must— notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (3)(b))	27 February 2022
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))	27 February 2022
The registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children's home if— the registered provider—	27 February 2022

is not, or does not intend to be, in day-to-day charge of the home. (Regulation 27 (1)(b)(iii))	
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))	27 February 2022
The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to— HMCI. (Regulation 44 (7)(a))	27 February 2022
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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health; (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d))	3 May 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the staff are familiar with the home's policies on record keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be 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, in line with Regulation 23, they make suitable arrangements to manage, administer and dispose of any medication. These are fundamentally the same sorts of arrangements as a good parent would make but are subject to additional safeguards. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35 paragraph 7.5)
- The registered person should ensure that they produce a children's guide. The children's guide must be made available to all children when their placement in the home is agreed (or on arrival at the home, if the placement is made in an emergency). ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 24 paragraph 4.21)

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: SC380956

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: North East Lincolnshire Council

Registered provider address: Civic Offices, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire DN35 8LN

Responsible individual: Ms Joanne Spender

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Jennifer Fenlon, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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