

SC381085

Stoke On Trent City Council

Monitoring visit

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a local authority. It offers care for up to two children who may have experienced early childhood instability that has led to trauma and associated complex behaviours.

There is currently no registered manager in post.

Inspection date: 8 June 2022

This monitoring visit

Ofsted carried out a full inspection on 25 and 26 April 2022. Serious shortfalls were identified and the home was judged as inadequate. Three compliance notices were issued under regulation 6, the quality and purpose standard, regulation 12, the protection of children standard, and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. A notice restricting accommodation was issued on 27 April 2022.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review progress in meeting the compliance notices and consider if the notice of restriction should remain in place. The three compliance notices were considered met, and the notice to restrict accommodation was lifted on 17 June 2022.

At the time of this monitoring visit, there were no children living at the home. The registered manager has resigned and left the service. A new manager is in post, who is yet to register with Ofsted.

The home environment is now clean, tidy and welcoming. Every room has been redecorated and furnished with new furniture.

All staff have completed a comprehensive two-week training and development programme. This included refresher training in safeguarding children, child exploitation and behaviour management. Further training has been arranged to provide staff with a better understanding of deprivation of liberty orders. Staff have been supported to reflect on their previous practice and the quality of care provided

to children. While some gaps in training remain, the staff are now better equipped for their roles. This was confirmed by staff spoken to at the inspection.

Managers have reviewed and made improvements to the home's monitoring systems to ensure that shortfalls in practice are quickly identified and acted upon. However, these improvements remain in their infancy and are untested.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/04/2022	Full	Inadequate
01/06/2021	Full	Good
09/04/2019	Full	Good
12/06/2018	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. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— 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; raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vii)) This specifically relates to ensuring that children are provided with appropriate levels of education. If children are not at school, the staff team should promote and support informal learning.	15 August 2022
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met;	15 August 2022

children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— understand the child’s health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child’s health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child’s age and understanding; understand and develop skills to promote the child’s well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(ii)(iv)) This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated. This specifically relates to ensuring that staff support children with all aspects of their health, including sexual and mental health. This includes ensuring that children have access to appropriate specialist services.	
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans; help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child’s behaviour, in accordance with the child’s age and understanding;	15 August 2022

communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child's age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful; help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship; strive to gain each child's respect and trust; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children; are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)) This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated. This specifically relates to ensuring that staff support children to understand their experiences, behaviour and risks. In addition, support children to have positive and healthy relationships with others. Ensure that staff have the skills and confidence to meet the children's specific needs.	
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— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if	15 August 2022

necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12(1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)) This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated. This specifically relates to ensuring that robust and up-to-date risk assessments are in place for each child, and that staff understand and follow these risk assessments. In addition, this relates to staff supporting children to understand their risks.	
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— are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(vii)) This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated. This specifically relates to ensuring that allegations against staff are investigated. In addition, that the investigation and outcome are recorded.	15 August 2022
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—	15 August 2022

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 have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(f)(h)) This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated. This relates to ensuring that there are effective monitoring systems in place to identify learning and improve practice. This relates to ensuring that staff have the skills to meet the needs of the children living at the home.	
For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls two years after the date on which the individual started working	15 August 2022

in a care role in a home; or in the case of an individual who was working in a care role in a home on 1st April 2014, 1st April 2016. The registered person may defer the relevant date if the individual— does not work, or has not worked, in a care role in a home for a prolonged period; or works, or has worked, in a care role in a home on a part-time basis. (Regulation 32 (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)(b) (6)(a)(b)) This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated. This specifically relates to ensuring that all staff complete the Level 3 Diploma within the required timeframes.	
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; ensure that the records are kept up to date. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)) This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated. This relates to ensuring that the staff rota shows planned and actual hours worked by all staff.	15 August 2022
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;	15 August 2022

there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.
(Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(e))

This requirement was issued at the last inspection and is restated.

This specially relates to ensuring that the registered person notifies Ofsted without delay of any notifiable incidents.

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: SC381085

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stoke-On-Trent City Council

Registered provider address: City Of Stoke-On-Trent, Swann House, Boothens Road, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 4SY

Responsible individual: Tracey Docksey

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Debbie Holder, Social Care Inspector

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Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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