

SC454484

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority. It is registered to provide care for up to five children who may experience emotional and/or social difficulties.

At the time of this visit, three children were living at the home. The inspector spoke with two of the children.

The home has been without a registered manager since June 2021. There is a manager in post, who is not registered with Ofsted.

A restriction of accommodation notice was issued on 18 July 2022 until 10 October inclusively.

Inspection date: 1 September 2022

This monitoring visit

This home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 12 July 2022. During this inspection, the inspectors found significant breaches in regulations. These related to the safety and protection of children, the leadership and management arrangements and the admission of children moving into the home. As a result, three compliance notices were issued under regulations 12, 13, and 14.

This visit was carried out to assess the provider's progress in meeting the three compliance notices. The visit included a review of documents and discussions with leaders and managers, staff and children.

Leaders and managers have provided Ofsted with a development plan which has been regularly updated to demonstrate the steps they have taken to address the shortfalls.

Senior managers propose that the children living at the home will move out in a planned way and that the home's operation will be paused temporarily. This provides

reassurance that the senior leaders are taking the necessary steps to address the concerns set out in the compliance notice issued under regulation 14. Steps have been taken to improve the admissions process. Furthermore, staff's training and development needs have been identified, but staff have not yet completed the identified training. Therefore, the effectiveness of this cannot be fully evaluated and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

There has been a full review of children's risk assessments. All identified risks to children have been assessed and there is clear guidance for staff to follow to help to reduce the risks. The manager has provided staff with guidance to ensure that staff understand their responsibilities in relation to following children's risk assessments and when a child is being restrained. There has been one incident of restraint since the full inspection. The restraint was proportionate and recorded accurately.

The manager has reviewed the protocols for when children go missing from home. These provide clear steps for staff to follow, including when children go missing at night. The manager has planned for staff to have access to a vehicle to enable them to search for children who go missing. The manager has adjusted the rota to ensure that there is sufficient staffing at night. This helps to ensure that staff can respond quickly when children leave the home. This means that suitable action has been taken to meet the compliance notice under regulation 12.

Leaders and managers have provided staff with guidance to ensure that they understand their responsibilities in relation to recording incidents. The manager has improved the systems in place to ensure that incidents are reviewed and evaluated.

Staff have received supervision that provides them with guidance on the help and protection of children. The manager has addressed the shortfalls in how staff respond to the children and their practice in relation to recording and reporting incidents. The manager is supportive in supervision, which enables the staff to reflect on their practice.

Leaders and managers have taken some steps to ensure that full information about each of the matters in schedule 2 is available to them. This refers to the employment of agency staff. However, some gaps remain. Therefore, a requirement will be made to help to ensure that safer recruitment is embedded in practice.

Requirements made at the full inspection were not reviewed at this visit. Therefore, these are repeated and will be assessed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/07/2022	Full	Inadequate
02/11/2021	Full	Good
21/07/2021	Full	Inadequate
02/03/2020	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; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff— understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; protect and promote each child's welfare; provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background; provide to children personal items that are appropriate for their age and understanding; and 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. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iv)(viii)(ix))	28 August 2022
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—	28 August 2022

that staff— help each child to achieve the child’s education and training targets, as recorded in the child’s relevant plans; 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; help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child’s relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(x))	
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; 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 each child has access to such dental, medical, nursing, psychiatric and psychological advice, treatment and other services as the child may require. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(c))	28 August 2022
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; and	28 August 2022

positive responses to other children and adults. 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; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child’s behaviour, in accordance with the child’s age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; 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; 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; de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(ix)(x)(xi))	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children’s home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—	18 October 2022

that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose; that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(ii)(c))	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children's home; or if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(d)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that full and satisfactory information is available to them in relation to staff employed through an agency.	18 October 2022
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; 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.	28 August 2022

(Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)(c))	
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; there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(b)(e))	28 August 2022
The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report"). The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a))	28 August 2022

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: SC454484

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Gateway Plaza, Sackville Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2RD

Responsible individual: Claire Brodie

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Rachel Webster, Social Care Inspector

Debbie Foster, Social Care Inspector

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