

# SC472449

Registered provider: North Lincolnshire Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home is run and managed by a local authority, it can provide care for up to six children who may have social and emotional difficulties. This includes up to one child with a physical disability.

The home does not have a registered manager. A manager has been appointed and has submitted their application to Ofsted.

Four children were living in the home at the time of the assurance inspection.

**Inspection date:** 17 December 2024

**Date of last inspection:** 22 May 2024

**Judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

## Findings from the inspection

Three children were seen and spoken to during the inspection.

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children are making progress and have positive relationships with staff. One child who came to live at the home earlier this year is no longer using dangerous substances. One child is being supported to search for family members and is now taking part in positive activities and maintaining peer relationships. Two children said staff are 'good' and they feel 'safe'.

Children's views are valued. Staff seek out the child's voice to involve them in their plans and decision-making. For children who use English as a second language, an interpreter is used. This means children can overcome language barriers to fully participate. The manager has ensured that there is a consistent interpreter who has developed a trusting relationship with the children. One child told me they trust the interpreter to share their views and explain information of which they are unsure.

Children's risks are understood by staff. Children's risk assessments are regularly updated and include guidance for staff to follow if there is an incident. Staff prioritise the safety of the children and follow their plans.

Staff are skilled at de-escalation, and the use of physical restraint is a last resort. This has resulted in minimal incidents requiring a physical intervention. Children and staff are provided with an opportunity to reflect on what has happened, and this promotes learning about what could be done differently in the future. The opportunity to reflect is not always completed within an appropriate timescale, which means there is a delay in the possible learning which could have an impact on actions taken in any future incidents.

The manager is reflective when reviewing incidents. Any shortfalls in practice or protocol are identified, and the manager implements challenges and changes where needed. Internal monitoring is used to improve experiences for children and ensure safety. After reviewing one incident of harmful behaviour in the home, the manager ensured that a multi-agency response was instigated to protect a child.

Staff act to ensure the safety of the children. Procedures are in place to inform staff how to respond to an identified concern. There is a lack of consistency in the procedures which support staff. This could result in important actions to keep children safe being missed. On one occasion, there was a delay in the manager being notified of an incident which resulted in a delay in a notification to a partner agency.

At the last inspection, the care planning requirement was raised. This was not reviewed and is therefore restated.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 22/05/2024      | Full            | Good                            |
| 23/05/2023      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 09/08/2022      | Full            | Good                            |
| 08/11/2021      | Full            | Outstanding                     |

## What does the children's home need to do to improve?

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 must comply within the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Due date    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that arrangements are in place to</p> <p>manage and review the placement of each child in the home.</p> <p>(Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)(2)(ii))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that for any young adult living in the home, care planning considers the needs of the young adult living in the home and the impact this will have on them and the other children who live in the home.</p> <p>Restated</p> | 28 Feb 2025 |
| <p>The Behaviour Management Policy -</p> <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p> <p>(Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person should ensure that following any use of a measure of control staff are provided with a debrief to support their learning and welfare and all</p>                                                                                                                                                                                        | 28 Feb 2025 |

debriefs are recorded and signed by staff who have used the measure.

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC472449

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** North Lincolnshire Council

**Registered provider address:** Church Square House, 30–40 High Street,  
Scunthorpe DN15 6NL

**Responsible individual:** Tom Hewis

**Registered manager:** Vacant

## Inspector

Kate Jackson, Social Care Inspector

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