

SC485318

Registered provider: Inspire Children's Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned home which provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager has been in post since December 2019.

Inspection date: 14 November 2022

This monitoring visit

During a full inspection on the 20 and 21 September 2022, inspectors identified shortfalls in safeguarding practice and leadership and management. As a result, the home was judged inadequate, and three compliance notices were issued under section 22A of the Care Standards Act. These relate to regulation 12, the protection of children standard; regulation 13, the leadership and management standard; and regulation 14, the care planning standard.

The focus of this visit was to monitor and review the actions taken by the provider to meet the compliance notices issued under regulations 12, 13 and 14.

Inspectors found that the provider has taken sufficient action to meet two of the compliance notices under regulation 13, the leadership and management standard and regulation 14, the care planning standard. The provider has not taken sufficient action to meet the steps under compliance notice 12, the protection of children standard. Therefore, further to this visit, a compliance notice was issued under regulation 12, the protection of children standard.

Since the last inspection, leaders and managers have reviewed their care planning arrangements to ensure that they include relevant information in respect of the child. Leaders and managers have implemented a new document that supports effective decision-making in relation to accepting new placements. However, the effectiveness of this has not been tested, as no new children have moved into the home.

Risk assessments are unclear and do not identify current risks and actions for staff to follow to reduce risk. Following a recent safeguarding incident, leaders and managers did not include relevant information in the child's risk assessment. An evaluation of this risk assessment contains conflicting information. Therefore, staff do not have accurate information in relation to this incident.

Leaders and managers do not have effective systems in place so that staff know about any updated information in children's plans.

Leaders and managers were able to demonstrate that staff have received further training to help them in their roles. Staff attended a development day and received training in safeguarding and behaviour management. This training has been provided to all staff, and learning from this training was discussed in team meetings.

It is Ofsted's view that the provider has taken sufficient action to meet the compliance notices under regulation 13, the leadership and management standard and regulation 14, the care planning standard. However, the provider has not taken sufficient action to meet the compliance notice under regulation 12, the protection of children standard.

The other requirements were not considered at this visit and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/09/2022	Full	Inadequate
15/02/2022	Full	Good
11/02/2020	Full	Good
28/11/2018	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 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. 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 and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. The conditions are— that the care is delivered by a person who— has the experience, knowledge and skills to deliver that care; and is under the supervision of a person who is appropriately skilled and qualified to supervise that care. (Regulation 6 (1)(a) (2)(c)(i) (3)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to ensuring that the home is appropriately maintained. Children's bedrooms should be clean and homely. The bedrooms need painting and decorating to be more welcoming. In addition, leaders and managers must ensure that staff have the relevant skills, knowledge and qualifications to safely respond to the needs of the children they care for.	1 December 2022
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.	1 December 2022

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to achieve the child’s education and training targets, as recorded in the child’s relevant plans; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; maintain regular contact with each child’s education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child’s education and training and to maximise the child’s achievement; 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; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; and 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)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(x)) This is in relation to some children not having any relevant plans in place. The registered person should access additional support services and request essential information, where required, to support children’s education.	
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to—	1 December 2022

achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans; and understand and develop skills to promote the child's well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a) (2)(a)(i)(iv)) This specifically relates to ensuring that all children have relevant plans and that health and well-being outcomes are recorded. Arrangements for managing a child's health must be clear. Staff need to understand how to respond if children refuse to take their medication.	
*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 necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; 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; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm; and 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)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(d))	1 December 2022

This is specifically in relation to risk management and risk assessments; these need to be robust and followed. Staff need to understand when and how to take action to reduce the risk of harm to the child. There needs to be a consistent staff team that is appropriately qualified and skilled to meet the needs of the children.	
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. (Regulation 23 (1)) This specifically relates to ensuring that records are accurate and appropriately dated. In addition, where children refuse medication, the registered manager should ensure that staff understand the required procedure and that they approach appropriate medical professionals for guidance.	1 December 2022
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (3)(c))	1 December 2022
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(b)(c))	1 December 2022
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—	1 December 2022

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; a child protection enquiry involving a child— is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))	
The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12 (2)(c) (the protection of children standard). When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person. (Regulation 46 (1) (2)) This specifically relates to identifying the potential risks of children being able to access trains at the local station, as it is unmanned. In addition, the registered person should include evidence of consultation with relevant others and ensure that the evaluations of identified risks are accurate.	1 December 2022

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: SC485318

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Inspire Children's Services Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 3 Craig Court, Standish Street, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 1GJ

Responsible individual: Paul Keogh

Registered manager: Michelle Hurst

Inspectors

Nichola Croft, Social Care Inspector
Catherine Fargin, Social Care Inspection Manager

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