

SC486606

City of Bradford Metropolitan District 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 and accommodation for up to four children aged between 10 and 18 years who may have emotional, social and behavioural difficulties.

This home provides emergency, short-term or medium-term placements.

The manager registered with Ofsted in June 2020.

Inspection date: 7 September 2021

This monitoring visit

The previous full inspection on 3 and 4 August 2021 resulted in a judgement of inadequate and three compliance notices were issued as a result. This monitoring visit took place on 7 September 2021 to monitor progress in respect of those compliance notices. These notices were regarding the protection of children, the leadership and management of the service and planning children's care. The inspector found that the provider has met all the steps in the compliance notices.

The provider has developed an action plan to address the deficiencies found at the last inspection. This action plan has been robustly managed and reviewed by the home's managers. It has been supported by strategic managers in ensuring no children have been placed in the home if their needs are outside of the home's statement of purpose. The action plan has ensured that the steps in the compliance notice have now been met.

There has been a short period where there have been no children living in the home. The provider has used this time to refurbish the property, replace soiled carpets and flooring, and purchase new furniture. The physical barriers of the window bars and wall spikes have been removed. This reduces physical risks to children as well as

making the environment feel homely. The home now looks and smells clean and welcoming.

There is an updated flowchart for admissions to the home, to ensure that children are admitted appropriately and safely. Recently, a decision has been made not to admit a child into the home based on the impact risk assessment and the needs of another child living in the home. This is a positive step in enabling the manager to demonstrate his authority and responsibility to make child-centred decisions.

For the child who has been recently admitted to the home, there is a clear impact risk assessment. A timely planning meeting included the child and their parents to ensure their needs and any safeguarding matters were quickly identified. There was prompt communication with staff about potential risks to the child and agreed strategies to mitigate these risks.

The provider works with a multi-agency team to ensure additional needs, in relation to education, emotional health, or speech and language, are identified and promptly responded to. The staff team are working with the child's family to promote positive relationships and family time.

The provider acknowledges that transitions out of the home have not always been done in a child-centred way. There are plans in place to ensure that any future children are better supported in their transitions, and to ensure that high-quality multi-agency information is collated and passed on to the child's new carers. These will help ensure a smooth transition and provide some support for children during an unsettling time.

Staff have access to a comprehensive training offer and all staff have received mandatory training. Staff also have access to other training, delivered via the local child safeguarding partnership and through an in-house training programme. This provides access to specialist training, such as speech and language and key-work sessions. Managers have developed a training matrix to oversee the developmental needs of staff. The staff team are adequately trained to meet the needs of children who fit within the scope of the home's statement of purpose.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/08/2021	Full	Inadequate
09/03/2020	Full	Good
20/11/2018	Full	Good
04/07/2017	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 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; 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(b))	5 September 2021
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))	5 September 2021
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare.	5 September 2021

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; 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)(h))	
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— 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— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child’s placing authority. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii))	5 September 2021
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children’s home. In particular the registered person must ensure that—	5 September 2021

medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; and a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)(c))	
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires; and to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a)(b))	

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as an independent person makes a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the home's care. ('Guide to the children's home regulations including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

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: SC486606

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Registered provider address: City Hall, Centenary Square, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1HY

Responsible individual: Vacant post

Registered manager: John Briggs

Inspector

Louise Hollick, Her Majesty's Inspector

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