

Monitoring report for a Children's Home

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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is operated by a private provider and is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to of four young people with learning disabilities, two of whom may also have physical disabilities.

Outcome of monitoring visit

Ofsted issued two compliance notices following an inadequate inspection judgement on 7 January 2015, in respect of failure to make notifications to the regulator and absence of statutory records about young people. Ofsted will shortly carry out a full inspection to monitor compliance with these notices.

The responsible individual advised Ofsted on 30 January 2015, that the appointed manager would not be able to fulfil the role of registered manager in the medium to long term because of health problems.

Ofsted carried out a visit on 5 February to consider the adequacy of the managerial arrangements. This inspection visit finds the short term leadership and management arrangements are also unsatisfactory.

There is no skilled or experienced management in the absence of the appointed manager. Staff say the manager is not well and now works from home. The manager has not been working as shown on the rota, which does not make clear whether she is absent or on leave. There are no deputising arrangements and a senior residential care worker, without previous managerial experience or training, is in day-to-day charge of the home.

There is no reliable record of which staff work at the home on any day, including the manager and agency staff. Staffing levels are apparently satisfactory and there is a core of seven permanent residential staff in total. Basic staffing ratios are maintained by use of agency staff and allow young people to continue with their regular weeknight activities.

There is no effective staff supervision system in place. There has been no recorded supervisions since October 2014. The appointed manager has not supervised any staff and there are no staff skilled or experienced to do this in her absence. Staff do not have sufficient supervision and are not supported by the registered person to provide each child with the high quality care that they need.

Young people are relatively stable at the home. There have been no safeguarding or worrying incidents, though young people's complaints, made two weeks ago, have not yet had a response. A notification about an incident when the police were called in December has still not been notified to Ofsted formally. Staff have not used any physical interventions this year and have calmed young people by talking to them.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
29 (2001)	ensure a staff duty roster of persons working at the children's home, and a record of the actual rosters worked (Regulation 29 (1) Sch 4 (11))	05/03/2015
5 (2001)	keep under review and, where appropriate, revise the statement of purpose and the children's guide(Regulation 5(a))	15/02/2015
11 (2001)	conduct the home so as to promote the care, education, supervision and support of children accommodated there (Regulation 11(1)(b))	15/02/2015
17B (2001)	ensure confirmation that the person authorised by the registered provider to make the record has spoken to the child concerned and the person using the measure about the use of the measure(Regulation 17B(3)(h))	15/02/2015
23 (2001)	ensure all parts of the home to which children have access are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their health or safety (Regulation 23(a))	15/02/2015
24 (2001)	ensure that a written record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of the investigation(Regulation 24(5))	15/02/2015
28 (2001)	ensure children's case records are kept securely in the children's home so long as the child to whom it relates is accommodated there(Regulation 28(3)(a))	15/02/2015
28 (2001)	ensure the case records of children accommodated in the home are kept up to date and include: the date and result of any review of the placing authority's plan for the care of the child, every school report received in respect of the child whilst accommodated at the home and the date and circumstances of any measures of control, restraint or discipline used in the home (Regulation 28 (a)) *	15/02/2015
30 (2001)	ensure, if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall, without delay, notify the persons indicated in respect of column 2 of the table (Regulation 30(1)) *	15/02/2015
31 (2001)	ensure that premises used for the purposes of a children's home are appropriately and suitably located, and review the	15/02/2015

	appropriateness and suitability of the location of those premises at least once in each calendar year(Regulation 31(1A)(a)(b))	
33 (2001)	produce a written report about a visit and provide a copy of the report to HMCI, the local authority for the area in which the home is located, the placing authorities of children accommodated in the home, the registered provider and the responsible individual(Regulation 33(9)(a-e))	15/02/2015
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at least once every 3 months (regulation 34(1)(a))	15/02/2015
34 (2001)	supply to HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purposes of paragraph (1) and make a copy of the report available on request to placing authorities where the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home. (Regulation 34(2))	15/02/2015

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice

About this monitoring visit

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and progress made by the Children's Home following an Ofsted inspection.