

Children's Home – Monitoring visit

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Type of inspection	Monitoring
Inspectors	Pete Hylton Lisa Walsh

This monitoring visit.

This home was last inspected in July 2016. Nine requirements, including two compliance notices, were issued at this time. This visit took place to evaluate the organisation's response to these requirements.

Following the last visit, the home quickly returned to its registered number of young people. The registered manager has taken appropriate actions to meet the two compliance notices and seven further regulatory shortfalls. As a result, there have been some improvements to the quality of care in the home.

Relationships have improved with placing social workers. There is now better communication between all parties and necessary information is appropriately shared, reviewed and acted upon. This results in a more consistent approach to meeting young people's needs. This is further enhanced through the registered manager seeking input from specialist services to better meet the needs of young people. For example, where young people have sensory needs, additional staff training has been put in place. This results in a staff team that is better skilled and able to meet complex needs. Young people's files now contain all required information. This ensures that staff are working in accordance with agreed plans and are aware of all necessary details relating to young people's needs.

Risk management has improved. At the last inspection visit, incomplete risk assessments meant that there was the potential for inconsistent and unsafe care to be given in the home. All young people now have up-to-date risk management plans. These detail likely risks to young people and give clear guidance to staff in managing these vulnerabilities. The registered manager ensures that these plans are regularly reviewed and amended where necessary. Similarly, there have been improvements to the physical environment. The bedroom that was previously inappropriately used for a young person is no longer being used. This ensures that all young people have appropriate personal space in which to sleep, relax and play.

Staffing levels are now better managed. The home is now working within its registered numbers, and this means that staffing levels are now appropriate. As a result, young people receive care from a staff team that is sufficient in number. Rotas for the upcoming weeks are clearly defined and there are sufficient staff. There are also contingency plans in place should staff be unavailable to work in the home. The registered manager has also amended the statement of purpose to make clear the home's aims and objectives.

Medication arrangements are now safe and effective. All young people have detailed medication plans in place and staff are now clear in their responsibilities in administering medication. Further advice has been sought from young people's medical teams around the safe use of medication. For example, where young

people require pain relief, there are now clear protocols in place for the use of this medication. As a result, the potential for unsafe administration is reduced. This ensures that young people's health needs are appropriately met.

The registered manager has liaised with the local fire and rescue service. A fire officer visited the home during this inspection visit. There are resulting actions from the fire officer's visit. These include ensuring:

- that a storage area has appropriate fire detection
- that all staff are enabled to use firefighting equipment should they need to
- that night time staff participate in fire drills
- that all fire doors fully close and
- that wall displays are made fire retardant.

One requirement has been made as a result of this inspection. This relates to ensuring that the requirements from the fire service are met.

Information about this children's home

This home is one of five local authority homes. It is registered for up to seven young people with learning disabilities and is situated within an urban area.

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that must be taken so that the registered person(s) meets 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
If the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (a) applies to the home the registered person must ensure that the requirements of that Order and any regulations made under it, except for article 23 (duties of employees), are complied with in respect of the home. (Regulation 25 (2)(b))	30/11/2016

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.

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