

SC368032

Constant Child Care Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to three children who have social and emotional difficulties. The home is privately owned.

Inspection date: 17 September 2018

This monitoring visit

This home was last inspected in August 2018 and was judged to be inadequate. Regulatory shortfalls were identified in relation to:

- consultation with young people
- meeting children's needs through securing access to the relevant services
- challenging partner agencies when there is a need for improvement
- the assessment and management of children's risks
- the safety of the premises and how staff are safely recruited
- the professional development of staff
- the recording of restraint.

This monitoring visit took place to ensure that the above shortfalls, including one compliance notice relating to the safe recruitment of staff, have been appropriately met.

This monitoring visit found that there has been some improvement since the last inspection. Children now have a regular opportunity to take part in meetings with

staff. These focus on a range of issues and ensure that the children's views, wishes and feelings are recorded, and when appropriate acted upon. This has led to children being offered new experiences. For example, children have planned visits to local places of worship and the purchase of some new items for the home.

Similarly, the home environment has been improved. Areas of potential hazard to children have been remedied. Children now live in a home that is suitably maintained. The children were observed to be happy, lively and clearly enjoying spending time with staff and each other. The home provides ample space for the children to play, explore and engage in purposeful activities. Both children are at school and were excitedly telling staff about their school day. Neither child raised any concerns with the inspector and said that they liked being at the home and liked the staff.

Restraint recording is now more focused and includes much of the required detail. However, elements of poor practice remain. This specifically refers to the practice noticed at the last inspection. The August 2018 inspection identified that staff were recording that children were 'happy' with the restraint incident, although records did not evidence whether any discussion or wider evaluation by management had taken place. This practice has continued. However, the management has now intervened to ensure that no member of staff continues to record in this manner.

The compliance notice has not been met. This related to the recruitment of staff. The provider has appropriate systems in place to recruit its own staff, but does not have a similar system for staff who are from an agency. This means that there remains the potential for unsuitable adults to work with children in the home. The inspector was informed that the recruitment agencies confirm that appropriate checks are made. However, this has not been verified by the provider. For example, some agency members of staff do not have their full employment histories recorded, detail of their references or the training courses they have attended.

Similarly, risk assessments for children have not improved. The last inspection identified that there was missing information from a child's risk assessment with regard to online safety. This remains the case and is an ongoing shortfall. Some attempts have been made to seek and record the views of relevant professionals for the home's location risk assessment. However, this is not yet complete. The views of some key individuals, including the local fire service, missing persons coordinator and child sexual exploitation coordinator, have not been recorded. This is despite the provider requesting these details in August 2018. The management of the home has failed to actively seek this information and be persistent in obtaining these details.

One child remains without an advocate. The inspector was shown an email from early August 2018 which requested this service. This was followed up on 10 September 2018 with a further email. This avoidable delay has potentially meant that one child has been without a required service to meet their previously identified needs.

There has been some improvement to staff training. All staff are now trained in the safe administration of medication. However, staff are still waiting for training in physical intervention, as required at the last inspection. There is training planned for early October 2018. The requirement from the last inspection remains unmet.

There has been some progress, but there remain areas of outstanding regulatory shortfall. This includes failure to meet a compliance notice. The responsible individual and another senior manager were present during this inspection visit. They both confirmed that they remain committed to admitting no more children at the present time.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/08/2018	Full	Inadequate
21/08/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
27/02/2017	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
15/11/2016	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
<p>Engaging with the wider system to ensure children's needs are met.</p> <p>In meeting the quality standards, if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans.</p> <p>(Regulation 5(c))</p>	21/10/2018
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(2)(a)(i))</p>	21/10/2018
<p>The registered person must ensure that full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2.</p> <p>(Regulation 32(3)(d))*</p>	21/10/2018*
<p>The registered person must ensure that all employees undertake appropriate professional development.</p> <p>(Regulation 33(4)(a))</p> <p>In particular, this is to ensure that all staff receive training in physical intervention.</p>	21/10/2018
<p>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.</p>	21/10/2018

(Regulation 35(3)(c))	
<p>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.</p> <p>When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person.</p>	21/10/2018
(Regulation 46(1)(2))	

*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: SC368032

Provision sub-type: children's home

Registered provider: Constant Child Care Limited

Registered provider address: Beecham Business Centre, Beecham Business Park, Northgate, Aldridge, West Midlands WS9 8TZ

Responsible individual: Barry Edwards

Registered manager: Lisa Sherwood

Inspector

Pete Hylton, social care inspector

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