

# SC035352

**Northamptonshire County Council**

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## **Information about this children's home**

The home accommodates up to seven young people. It is a residential home for young people aged between 15 and 18 whose emotional and behavioural difficulties are such that they are unable to live within their own or a substitute family setting.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since October 2012.

**Inspection date:** 2 October 2018

## **This monitoring visit**

This unannounced visit was carried out in response to an anonymous complaint made to Ofsted regarding the way in which a specific incident in the home had been managed. The complaint also raised concerns that young people were not effectively safeguarded in the home and about wider management practice.

The home was judged as requires improvement at the full inspection on 27 and 28 June 2018. Four requirements and one recommendation were made. The home's progress in meeting these was not the focus of this visit.

The specific incident, which involved a young person refusing to comply with the home's rules, was looked at during the inspection. This included talking with managers and staff, as well as reviewing documentation. Some shortfalls were noted. Although lessons could be learned about future practice, no widespread safeguarding concerns were identified.

A risk assessment was reviewed. The assessment was of a good quality in terms of identifying the risk. However, it lacked specific guidance about what action staff should take to ensure the safety of the young person. Neither did the risk assessment identify preventative strategies to assist staff to manage young people's complex behaviours.

Several staff were spoken to during the visit. None of the staff raised any concerns

about their managers. All of the staff were positive about the way that the home is managed. They feel supported by the management team. No concerns were highlighted that would suggest that young people are at risk of harm.

## **Recent inspection history**

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Inspection judgement</b>
27/06/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/07/2017	Full	Good
25/01/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness
23/08/2016	Full	Good

## 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>The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who–</p> <p>understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and</p> <p>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to–</p> <p>help each child to understand and manage the impact of any experience of abuse or neglect. (Regulation 6(1)(a)(b), (2)(v))</p> <p>In particular, direct work should be carried out with young people in order to assist them to recognise and understand the impact of current and historical abuse.</p>	27/07/2018
<p>The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on–</p> <p>mutual respect and trust;</p> <p>an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and</p> <p>positive responses to other children and adults.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure–</p> <p>that staff–</p> <p>understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable. (Regulation 11(1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(xii))</p> <p>In particular, that young people are helped to understand the</p>	27/07/2018

<p>impact of violence and bullying between peers.</p>	
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>(2) In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure–</p> <p>(b) 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)(b))</p>	<p>27/07/2018</p>
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children’s home that–</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to–</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b), (2)(h))</p> <p>In particular, the registered manager should review systems within the home to ensure that they are safeguarding young people.</p>	<p>27/07/2018</p>

## Recommendations

- When a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, the responsible local authority must provide an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview. Homes should take account of information provided by such interviews when assessing risks and putting arrangements in place to protect each child. (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 44, paragraph 9.30)

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC035352

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider address:** Northamptonshire County Council, John Dryden House, 8–10 The Lakes, Northampton NN4 7YD

**Responsible individual:** Andrew Logie

**Registered manager:** Timothy Morrison

## Inspector(s)

Davinia Lawton, social care inspector

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