

SC036740

Nottinghamshire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This secure children's home is managed by a local authority. It is approved by the Department for Education to restrict children's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 20 children, who are aged between 10 and 17 years.

It provides accommodation for up to 12 children placed by the Youth Custody Service and has up to eight places for children accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

Under section 25 of the Children Act 1989, admission of any child who is under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

The commissioning of health services in this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Education is provided on-site.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2018.

Inspection date: 13 August 2019

This monitoring visit

Ofsted inspected this home on 25 and 26 June 2019 and judged the service to be inadequate. Because of this inspection, Ofsted served four compliance notices on 8 July 2019.

A monitoring visit on 18 July 2019 determined that the compliance notice in relation to the management of medication had been met.

The purpose of this monitoring inspection was to review the progress made against the remaining three compliance notices. These compliance notices related to the protection of children, leadership and management and behaviour management records. This monitoring visit found that these compliance notices are met.

Children are now much safer than previously reported. For each child, information pertaining to known and emerging risks has been coordinated into one document that is easy for staff to understand and follow. These documents are regularly reviewed, updated and discussed as standard agenda items at handovers, meetings and staff supervision. Staff spoken to during the inspection showed a good understanding of these plans and could demonstrate how they are supporting children to manage risk-taking behaviours such as self-harm.

Internal reporting mechanisms ensure that senior leaders are aware of and involved in decisions regarding serious incidents. This ensures a proactive response to minimising future risk as well as making sure that key people are kept informed and involved.

In addition to existing checks, unit leaders have initiated focused safeguarding monitoring each month. This includes the scrutiny of behaviour management records and the use of closed circuit television (CCTV) to sample staff practice. Senior managers then quality assure this work and ensure that steps are taken to address any identified shortfalls. Although relatively new, this system has been effective in picking up practice shortfalls, such as failing to maintain observation regimes, as well as improving the overall quality of behaviour management records.

Systems that ensure good monitoring have been introduced and are being implemented effectively at all levels of management. These systems have brought about improved accountability for staff and middle managers, who are much clearer about their roles and responsibilities.

Positive action has been taken to improve staffing arrangements. The provider has taken the decision to voluntarily reduce occupancy while recruitment takes place to fill vacant posts. This, combined with a more planned approach to the deployment of staff, is ensuring that staff can better respond to each child's known and emerging needs.

A cohesive review of all training has been completed. Existing training has been supplemented by a range of purposeful training opportunities that are to be delivered over the forthcoming months. This includes training for staff in understanding and responding to the needs of children who display sexualised and sexually harmful behaviour.

Due to the short period of time since the full inspection, it is difficult to assess the long-term impact of these changes. However, the steps taken so far to address the three compliance notices provide a strong platform on which to sustain improvement.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/06/2019	Full	Inadequate
11/12/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
17/07/2018	Full	Good
08/03/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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>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;</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 ensure that staff—</p> <p>protect and promote each child's welfare;</p> <p>treat each child with dignity and respect.</p> <p>(Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b)(2)(b)(i)(ii)(iii))</p> <p>Specifically, ensure that children are helped to maintain a clean, tidy and safe bedroom that is suitably equipped to meet their individual needs.</p>	07/08/2019
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is any incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.</p> <p>(Regulation 40 (4)(e))</p>	07/08/2019
<p>The registered person must supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed.</p> <p>(Regulation 45 (4)(a))</p>	07/08/2019

Recommendations

- The ethos of the home should support each child to learn. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 29, paragraph 5.18)

Specifically, leaders, managers and staff in the home should support the development of children's social and personal skills, identifying their needs and targeting the improvement in these areas for development, ensuring that these skills are recognised as valuable outcomes by children during their time at the home.

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: SC036740

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider: Nottinghamshire County Council

Registered provider address: County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

Responsible individual: Devon Allen

Registered manager: Paul Thomas

Inspectors

Paul Scott, social care inspector
Cathey Moriarty, social care inspector

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