

1244160

Witherslack Group Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

Inspection date: 16 January 2020

This monitoring visit

This is one of several children's homes operated by the Witherslack group. The staff provide care for up to eight children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager was registered by Ofsted in November 2018.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/10/2019	Full	Good
11/12/2018	Full	Good
14/12/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
03/05/2017	Full	Good

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

No requirements or recommendations were made as a result of this inspection.

The requirements and recommendations made at the full inspection undertaken on 9 October 2019 and the monitoring visits conducted on 20 November 2019 and 16 December 2019 will be reviewed at the home's next inspection.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit is to monitor the registered person's compliance with a restriction of accommodation notice issued on 25 November 2019 and a compliance notice issued on 19 December 2019.

Both notices were issued in relation to the provider's lack of action to appropriately review what occurred during an incident which took place on 13 November 2019. During this incident, a child who lived at the home and a member of staff were assaulted and suffered injuries.

The restriction notice was issued because Ofsted was concerned that if additional children were admitted to the home this would create further risk.

A monitoring visit was undertaken on 16 December 2019. This was to review compliance with the restriction notice issued on 25 November 2019. At this inspection, the registered persons failed to demonstrate that they had taken the action necessary to address the shortfalls identified in the compliance notice. As a result, a further compliance notice was issued.

At this inspection, the provider demonstrated that they had complied with the restriction of accommodation notice. No child had been admitted since this notice came into force on 25 November 2019.

The provider also demonstrated that they have addressed the shortfalls that led to Ofsted issuing a compliance notice. A full review of the incident had taken place and a detailed action plan to improve practice was being implemented very swiftly. A new regional manager has been appointed from January 2020. She is supporting positive change, which is improving the level of care that children receive. The staff team members are engaging with the process of change well and are very positive about the support that they now receive from the managers.

Leaders and managers identified that poor decision-making on the day of the incident led to staff not following guidance on how to manage serious incidents.

Training and support for the manager and staff at the home has significantly improved. Management monitoring systems have improved, and staff now have a

clear understanding about how to meet children's needs. The provider has also made improvements to the quality of care plans, risk assessments and case records. This has resulted in children's needs being better identified and met, especially if additional services are required when risks increase.

As a result of the action taken by the registered provider, the restriction notice and compliance notice were both lifted following this inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1244160

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Witherslack Group Limited

Registered provider address: Lupton Tower, Lupton, Carnforth LA6 2PR

Responsible individual: Howard Tennant

Registered manager: Dean Fuller

Inspector

Ruth Coler, social care inspector

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