

SC035352

Registered provider: Northamptonshire County Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home accommodates up to seven children and young people between the ages of 12 and 17. It provides care for children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The manager has been registered with Ofsted since October 2012.

Inspection date: 4 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 30 April 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Some children continue to make good progress. For example, some children have successfully transitioned back to their family homes. Most of the children are attending school or an alternative provision. Staff support children well to maintain their educational placements.

Other children are making some progress but continue to demonstrate risky or challenging behaviour. Staff work tirelessly with them to try and minimise the impact of these behaviours. Staff are using external specialist agencies to work with children who are at risk. However, children's engagement levels vary.

Difficulties have arisen from the combination of behaviours displayed by two new children. Their placements led to an increase in challenging behaviour and a spike in the use of physical interventions. Staff recognise that, despite their best efforts, they are unable to fully safeguard one child.

The acting manager appropriately addressed a situation in which staff failed to report the absence of a child. His actions ensured that staff fully understand the importance of following each child's missing from home protocol carefully.

The team is coming through a difficult period. They are covering additional shifts to cover gaps in the rota. This demonstrates their commitment to ensuring that children are cared for by staff who they know.

There is a new management team in place. However, consistency has been maintained because the acting managers have worked in the home for several years. Acting managers are using incidents as learning opportunities and taking appropriate steps to improve the home. However, formal systems to review the quality of care are not being applied in line with regulations.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/04/2019	Full	Good
27/06/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/07/2017	Full	Good
25/01/2017	Interim	Improved 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
The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI. (Regulation 44 (7)(a))	06/05/2020
<p>The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months.</p> <p>In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating—</p> <p>the quality of care provided for children;</p> <p>the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and</p> <p>any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.</p> <p>After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report").</p> <p>The registered person must—</p> <p>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; and</p> <p>make a copy of the quality of care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home.</p> <p>The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (1)(2)(a)(b)(c)(3)(4)(a)(b)(5))</p>	06/05/2020

Recommendations

- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC035352

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Northamptonshire County Council, One Angel Square, 4 Angel Street, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN1 1ED

Responsible individual: Christina Skeel

Registered manager: Timothy Morrison

Inspector

Sonia Hay, Social Care Inspector

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