

SC033502

Registered provider: City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority operates and runs this home. It provides care and accommodation for up to four children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural needs. The manager has been in post since October 2019 and is in the process of making an application to the regulator.

Inspection date: 12 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 21 May 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be 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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

The home has been without a registered manager since 2018. The current manager is appropriately qualified and experienced for the position held. He has been in post since October 2019. He is in the process of making an application to register as a home's manager for this setting. He is supported in his role by his senior managers to help drive improvements forward.

Children's and young people's experiences are variable. Educational attendance and attainments are mixed. The provider has plans to reintegrate those children and young people into educational settings where there have been significant periods of absence. This will support the progress for children and young people, helping them to learn, enjoy and achieve.

Children and young people continue to enjoy spending time with staff, engaging with a variety of social and recreational activities. This improves relationships, helping children and young people to share thoughts and feelings with the adults who help look after them.

Risk assessments and risk management processes are poor. Risk assessments lack detail on how children's and young people's known risks are managed and how to mitigate the risk of harm. This means that staff do not know the full extent of the children's and young people's known risk-taking behaviours, and there is no clear guidance for staff to follow. Furthermore, this prevents the staff from providing appropriate support to children and young people to help them to learn how to keep themselves safe in and outside the home. This places children and young people at increased risk of harm because of their level of vulnerability.

Poorly managed responses to allegations made by children and young people mean that they cannot be confident that they will be helped and protected by those adults who help look after them. There is no system in place to feed back the experiences of children and young people, including allegations made. Nor is there an effective monitoring and review system in place to make continuous improvements to the quality of care provided to children and young people. This has delayed safeguarding arrangements for some children and young people. Additionally, this has not provided children and young people with reassuring messages that their views have been listened to and acted on.

The manager has not followed safeguarding and regulation processes that involve notifying Ofsted and the designated officer. This lack of transparency prevents the regulator and safeguarding agencies from providing independent oversight as well as any scrutiny of care arrangements that aim to promote the safety and welfare of

children and young people. Furthermore, this prevents good oversight by the manager to identify trends and patterns of behaviour that help to better protect children and young people.

Staff have not received all relevant training that is necessary to meet the needs of the children and young people in the home. A previous requirement to skill up staff through contextual safeguarding training has not been sufficiently addressed. Additionally, staff would benefit from training relating to awareness of self-harmful behaviours. A poorly skilled staff team means that they are unlikely to recognise and respond to risks and concerns effectively. This means that children and young people receive inconsistent care that hinders progress and does not support safer care arrangements.

The manager has introduced his own monitoring systems. They have not been effective at identifying shortfalls raised at this inspection. There are inconsistencies in recording of information. Hand-written records are not always legible, which makes it difficult for children and young people to see how they will be offered care and support. Furthermore, not all records are signed and dated by the author, which does not show accountability.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/03/2019	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
11/07/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
06/09/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be 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>*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—</p> <p>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>help each child to understand how to keep safe;</p> <p>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and</p> <p>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi) and (vii))</p>	03/05/2020
<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>	03/05/2020

<p>demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on—</p> <p>feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; and</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)(g)(ii) and (h))</p>	
<p>*The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(c) and (e))</p>	03/05/2020

* These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: SC033502

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, City Hall, Centenary Square, Bradford BD1 1HY

Responsible individual: Mark Trinder

Registered manager: Vacant post

Acting manager: Wayne Gates

Inspector

Jacqueline Tate, Social Care Inspector

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