

2496288

Wolverhampton City Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a local authority. The home provides care and accommodation for up to two children with complex needs.

Inspection date: 11 August 2020

This monitoring visit

A monitoring visit took place on 10 June 2020 where a number of shortfalls were identified. As a result, 12 requirements were made. Three of these requirements were subject to a compliance notice. Ofsted also imposed an urgent variation to the home's conditions of registration, reducing the number of children who can be cared for from four to two. At a subsequent monitoring inspection in June one of the compliance notices was met.

The purpose of this monitoring activity was to evaluate the provider's progress in meeting the compliance notices and to ensure that the provider is complying with the variation of condition of registration. Due to ongoing restrictions related to COVID-19 (coronavirus) this visit was completed remotely. The inspector was sent documents by email and spoke to children, parents, staff and other professionals using video conferencing and telephone calls. In addition to the compliance notices, nine requirements have been reviewed and have been met.

The variation of condition of registration has continued to be complied with, and there are two children living in the home.

Managers and staff now have clear plans in place to support children. Children are involved in writing these plans, which are truly child centred. They address all areas of children's lives and have realistic, measurable targets. This helps children to understand their strengths and needs and make progress. When there is delay to children's plans being implemented managers challenge this and advocate in

children's best interests. As a result, children know what they are working towards and staff challenge others to play their part in children's success.

The responsible individual and acting manager have introduced a framework to consider individual risks for children. This also incorporates clarity about staff training and skills to manage and reduce these risks. Managers and staff are better enabled to make informed decisions about children coming to the home and during their stay, and this keeps children safe.

The acting manager has ensured that there are sufficient skilled staff to meet the needs of children. These staff regularly seek children's views and respond appropriately. With the support of the responsible individual, the acting manager has simplified recording and monitoring systems. This has increased her oversight of practice and the experiences of children. Because of this, the acting manager is assured that children have child-centred, attuned relationships with adults who care deeply about their well-being.

As a result of these improvements the compliance notices in relation to regulation 13 and 14 are met.

Staff have completed work with children about personal relationships. The clear expectations laid down by staff have helped children to have more positive and supportive relationships with each other.

The acting manager has completed admission and discharge records; these now meet regulation. The acting manager has introduced a daily register so that it is clear when children may be staying away from the home and why. This means records are clear and children can understand the time they spend in the home.

The responsible individual has commissioned a new independent visitor who does not work for the local authority. His reports give the staff a constructive view of the home and makes his opinion about safeguarding and children's well-being clear. The acting manager responds to recommendations with a monthly action plan, which helps improve the quality of care children receive.

The acting manager has ensured that information of concern is shared with Ofsted as required. These notifications to the regulator show that staff know how to respond sensitively to children's information and that the acting manager understands the relevant regulations. This enables the regulator to have a more comprehensive view of the home.

The registered manager is currently away from the home and the deputy manager is acting as manager. Staff feel supported by the acting manager and she has worked hard to help staff successfully engage with improvement work. Staff are child centred and so have welcomed the simplified systems that have been put in place, as this means they can devote more time to children. The child-centred and

committed leadership enables staff to spend more time building good relationships with children, to meet their needs in attuned and creative ways.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
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This home has not been judged at inspection since registration

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 registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises.</p> <p>(Regulation 21(b))</p>	21/09/2020
<p>A person may only manage a children's home if—</p> <p>having regard to the size of the home, its statement of purpose, and the number and needs (including any needs arising from any disability) of the children—</p> <p>the person has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills to manage the home effectively and lead the care of children.</p> <p>For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b)(i), a person has the appropriate experience and qualification if the person has—</p> <p>by the relevant date, attained—</p> <p>the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 5 Diploma"); or a qualification which the registered provider considers to be equivalent to the Level 5 Diploma.</p> <p>The relevant date is—</p> <p>in the case of a person who starts managing a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 3 years after the date on which that person started managing a home.</p> <p>(Regulation 28(1)(b)(i)(2)(c)(i)(ii)(3)(a))</p>	21/09/2020
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p>	21/09/2020

within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—

the name of the child;
 details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure;
 the date, time and location of the use of the measure;
 a description of the measure and its duration;
 details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;
 the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used;
 the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and
 a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;

within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—

has spoken to the user about the measure; and
 has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and
 within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.

(Regulation 35(3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii) (b)(i)(ii)(c))

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.

Ofsted is aware of the challenges that COVID-19 (coronavirus) is currently posing to those we inspect. During this inspection, the inspectors took into consideration the impact of any measures being taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 by the agency. This has included the effect these have had on staffing arrangements.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2496288

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Wolverhampton City Council

Registered provider address: Civic Centre, St Peters Square, Wolverhampton,
West Midlands WV1 1SH

Responsible individual: Rachel King

Registered manager: Farai Miller

Inspector

Karol Keenan, social care inspector

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