

1237582

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a local authority. The home may provide care and accommodation for up to six children or young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home uses the 'No Wrong Door' model and offers outreach support. At the time of the visit, two children were living at the home. Following this visit, the number of children or young people that the home can accommodate reduced.

The manager has recently submitted an application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 23 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit took place to review progress made against the compliance notice served at the previous monitoring visit on 20 January 2021. The notice related to regulation 12, protection of children.

As a restriction notice is also in place, this was also reviewed at the visit to ensure that no children had moved in. This visit took place on site and included speaking to children and professionals. Two children have continued to live in the home and one child has been discharged since the last visit. There have been no admissions.

Managers have made efforts to ensure that each of the steps identified in the compliance notice are met. Managers and staff are making huge efforts to implement a more consistent, child-focused culture in the home. Staff have recognised that building relationships with the children is a priority. The inspector saw children engaging positively with staff throughout the day.

Several areas of the home have been decorated and re-furnished. Children's bedrooms are also being decorated and personalised and have been cleaned and

tidied regularly. Children are investing more in the home, and their choices have been integral to this refurbishment.

Staff have attended a range of training since the last visit to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to meet the needs of the children placed. The clinical psychologist and speech and language therapist have continued to work with the team to help build this understanding.

Risk management plans and detailed scripts have been provided to staff. This ensures that all staff are consistent and keeping children safe. The plans guide staff on how to take appropriate steps to prevent children from being at risk. As a result, children have not been missing from home for almost a month. Both children have slept at the home every night since the last inspection.

When children were missing, staff made some attempts to follow and locate them. Managers have identified times when more effort could have been made by staff and have addressed this appropriately. In response to poor recording, a new missing from home record has been devised. This improved management oversight will increase staff accountability in keeping children safe.

Staff are trying to implement routines and boundaries for children. However, the number of professionals working in the home makes it feel less homely. Plans are in place for staff with alternative tasks to work in an attached room with a separate entrance. Until this is possible, a review of who is in the home and when is essential. This will ensure that children know who is directly responsible for looking after them and reduce any inconsistencies.

Children spoken to confirmed that some changes have been made since the last visit, including staff waking children earlier for home schooling, helping to tidy bedrooms and following children if they leave the home without authorisation. One child said, 'It's all right here you know.'

Staff have completed creative work with children on fire safety. The use of materials and television programmes has helped to engage children more. This meets a previous requirement. As a result, children are more aware of the risks and smoke in their bedrooms less.

Staff are beginning to work collaboratively with the wider system to address complex safeguarding issues. This is reducing the risks to the children in the home.

It is clear that the changes made are beginning to have a positive impact on children. One social worker said, 'I definitely feel progress has been made. There is better communication now. The staff make so much more effort to encourage [name of child] not to go missing. I feel things are much better.'

Following the visit, a case review was held. The compliance notice was considered to have been met. The provider subsequently requested a variation to reduce the

numbers of children who could be accommodated in the home, which was agreed. The notice of restriction was lifted.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/03/2020	Full	Good
20/08/2018	Full	Good
18/09/2017	Full	Good
01/11/2016	Full	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, the 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 education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study;</p> <p>understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers;</p> <p>help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment;</p> <p>promote opportunities for each child to learn informally;</p> <p>help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible.</p> <p>(Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii))</p> <p>This particularly relates to implementing clear expectations and routines and supporting children's education when they refuse to go to school.</p>	13 March 2021

<p>This is carried over and will be monitored at the next visit.</p>	
<p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and</p> <p>have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that arrangements are in place to—</p> <p>ensure the effective induction of each child into the home;</p> <p>that each child's relevant plans are followed;</p> <p>that, subject to regulation 22 (contact and access to communications), contact between each child and the child's parents, relatives and friends, is promoted in accordance with the child's relevant plans.</p> <p>(Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(i))</p> <p>This particularly relates to managers carefully reviewing staff's skills and the potential impact when children move into the home prior to making a decision of suitability. Managers should carefully plan to ensure that young people are prepared for moves into and from the home.</p> <p>This also relates to staff having a clear understanding of the current supervision arrangements for children meeting with family.</p> <p>This is carried over and will be monitored at the next visit.</p>	<p>13 March 2021</p>

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home is proactive in clarifying if return home interviews have taken place and that any responses, views and feelings from young people involved in the interview are recorded clearly on records in the home. This is to ensure that risk assessments and strategies can be updated in the home, to enable staff to help safeguard young people and prevent them from going missing from home in the future. ('Guide to the

children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)

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: 1237582

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU

Responsible individual: Julia Hassall

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sylvia Eboigbe, Social Care Inspector

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