

# 1253623

## **The Spring Children's and Transitional Care Limited**

Monitoring visit

### **Information about this children's home**

This home is operated by a private provider. It provides care for up to two children with learning disabilities.

The home does not have a registered manager. The current manager was appointed on 1 September 2021. He is in the process of applying to register with Ofsted.

**Inspection date:** 5 January 2022

### **This monitoring visit**

On 28 and 29 April 2021, Ofsted undertook a full inspection. The home was judged inadequate. In response to that visit, Ofsted issued a notice of restriction of accommodation.

On 14 June 2021, 22 July 2021, 23 August 2021, 5 October 2021 and 9 November 2021, monitoring visits took place to monitor the notice of restriction. This had been adhered to. On 3 August 2021, a notice of decision to cancel the registration of the home was issued. On 16 October 2021, a third notice of restriction of accommodation was issued.

The purpose of this visit was to consider the home's adherence to the notice of restriction. The provider has adhered to the restriction of accommodation, and there are currently no children living at the home.

The manager who was appointed on 1 September 2021 is still in the process of applying to register with Ofsted. The current responsible individual is in the process of notifying Ofsted of his resignation and appointing the service manager to this role. The leadership of the home remains in a transitional stage and therefore its effectiveness is not yet fully understood.

Three staff have been recruited and are currently working in the provider's other home. Staff have completed relevant training to prepare them for when children move into the home. Additional training is planned. For example, staff will be

completing training to use a new online recording system which is due to be introduced to the home.

The manager has failed to recruit all staff safely. Specifically, one staff member's previous employment history has not been explored sufficiently enough to ensure that employment dates provided are correct. The existing responsible individual and service manager had also failed to identify this error. This does not assure Ofsted that manager's monitoring systems are sufficient.

A new independent person has been appointed to undertake monthly audits of the home. This is a recent change and therefore it is not yet possible to determine that the requirement previously raised in relation to the independent person's reports has been met.

The home has been refurbished throughout. A new sensory room has been created and the staff office has been relocated. These changes mean that there is no longer suitable provision for a second member of staff to sleep in the home. A pull-out bed is provided for the second member of staff, but this bed is located in the living room, which is a communal space for children and staff to use. Staff are not provided with appropriate sleeping arrangements.

The manager has demonstrated some progress towards meeting the other requirements raised at the previous inspection, which include regulations 6, 12, 13, 14 and 26. As no children are living in the home, the effectiveness of the changes made to meet these requirements cannot be measured. Therefore, these requirements remain in place.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/04/2021	Full	Inadequate
10/03/2020	Full	Inadequate
20/11/2019	Full	Inadequate
19/02/2019	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, 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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and</p> <p>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>understand and apply the home's statement of purpose; and</p> <p>ensure that staff—</p> <p>understand and apply the home's statement of purpose;</p> <p>protect and promote each child's welfare;</p> <p>treat each child with dignity and respect;</p> <p>provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background; and</p> <p>help each child to understand and manage the impact of any experience of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>(Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that staff provide good-quality care.</p>	15 November 2021
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p>	15 November 2021

<p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>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>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</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;</p> <p>that the home’s day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(vi)(vii)(b))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that staff take the necessary action to protect children from harm.</p>	
<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> <p>lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home’s statement of purpose;</p> <p>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;</p> <p>ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for</p>	<p>15 November 2021</p>

<p>each child; and</p> <p>ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(d)(e))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that staff are suitably trained, experienced and qualified to deliver care that is consistent with the home's statement of purpose.</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. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that staff provide effectively planned care for children who move in and out of the home.</p>	15 November 2021
<p>A responsible individual must—</p> <p>have the capacity, experience and skills to supervise the management of the home, or the homes, in respect of which the responsible individual is nominated. (Regulation 26 (7)(b))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that the responsible individual oversees the management of the home and takes effective action to operate the home in line with the home's statement of purpose and children's homes regulations.</p>	15 November 2021
<p>The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety.</p> <p>The requirements are that—</p> <p>full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (3)(d))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that all information in respect of Schedule 2 is held on file.</p>	15 November 2021

<p>The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to—</p> <p>HMCI. (Regulation 44 (7)(a))</p> <p>This specifically relates to monthly independent person reports being sent to Ofsted.</p>	<p>15 November 2021</p>
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## Recommendation

- The registered provider should ensure that the design of the home provides those staff that sleep in the home overnight with appropriate accommodation and facilities to do so. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 17, paragraph 3.26)

## 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:** 1253623

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** The Spring Children's and Transitional Care Limited

**Registered provider address:** 9 Grenville Drive, Birmingham, Warwickshire B23 7YX

**Responsible individual:** Blessing Manyara

**Registered manager:** Post vacant

## Inspector

Lisa O'Donovan, Social Care Inspector

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