

SC033362

Registered provider: Peterborough City & Cambridgeshire County Councils

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this secure children's home

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict children's liberty.

The home can accommodate up to four children aged between 10 and 17. It provides care for children accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989, who are placed by local authorities. At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

Admission of any child who is under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State, under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

The commissioning of health services at this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The registered manager has been in post since May 2013.

Inspection date: 2 November 2022

This monitoring visit

Ofsted inspected this home on 13 to 15 September 2022 and judged the service to be inadequate. Because of this, Ofsted served compliance notices in respect of the protection of children, leadership and management and restraint practice. The purpose of this monitoring inspection was to review the progress made against these compliance notices. All other requirements and recommendations from the full inspection will be reviewed at the next full inspection.

A comprehensive improvement plan is in place and is kept under constant review by the local authority improvement board. Effective implementation of this plan by

leaders and managers has ensured that necessary steps have been taken to meet the requirements of all three compliance notices.

The quality of management oversight has improved. New monitoring systems have been introduced and are being implemented by managers and staff effectively. These systems have brought about improved accountability for managers and staff and are influencing positive change and improved standards of care and safety for children.

Positive action has been taken to improve staffing arrangements. The provider has taken the decision to reduce the occupancy to four children, who are now accommodated in one area of the home. This, combined with a more planned approach to the deployment of staff, means that there are now enough experienced staff who can more readily respond to each child's needs.

Children are much safer than previously reported. A full audit of all key records has been carried out and amendments made where necessary. This means that staff now have accurate and up-to-date information available to them. Effective implementation of these plans means that children's needs, behaviours, risks and vulnerabilities are being managed and met.

Standards of security have improved. Staff have benefited from training around boundaries and expectations and are more diligent in ensuring that good security is maintained. Managers are undertaking regular checks regarding staff practice and take swift action when areas for improvement are identified.

All staff have either completed, or are in the process of completing, the theory and legislation training in relation to physical restraint. Since the last inspection, there have been five incidents of restraint, all of which met legal thresholds. Managers have been thorough in their scrutiny of these incidents, making good use of monitoring systems to identify where practice can be improved.

As with physical intervention, the use of single separation has reduced since the last inspection. Managers have focused on ensuring that staff understand the thresholds for single separation, which now requires management approval every 15 minutes. This means that this method of control is only used when necessary and for the minimum amount of time.

It is positive that leaders and managers recognise that this is the start of their journey and that there is much more to do. Due to the short period of time since the full inspection, it is difficult to assess the long-term impact of these changes. However, the steps taken so far provide a strong platform on which to build.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/09/2022	Full	Inadequate
10/03/2022	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
13/10/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/11/2019	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, 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 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;</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;</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;</p> <p>help each child to understand and manage the impact of any experience of abuse or neglect;</p> <p>help each child to develop resilience and skills that prepare the child to return home, to live in a new placement or to live independently as an adult;</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—</p> <p>meet the needs of each child;</p>	<p>28 October 2022</p>

<p>ensure that any care that is arranged or provided for a child that—</p> <p>relates to the child’s development (within the meaning of section 17(11) of the Children Act 1989) or health; and</p> <p>is not arranged or provided as part of the health service continued under section 1(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006(1),</p> <p>satisfies the conditions in paragraph (3).</p> <p>The conditions are—</p> <p>that the care is delivered by a person who—</p> <p>has the experience, knowledge and skills to deliver that care; and</p> <p>is under the supervision of a person who is appropriately skilled and qualified to supervise that care. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(c)(i)(d) (i)(ii) (3)(c)(i)(ii))</p>	
<p>The children’s views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>develop positive relationships with them;</p> <p>engage with them; and</p> <p>take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children’s care and welfare and their lives.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff—</p> <p>ascertain and consider each child’s views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child’s best interests when making decisions about the child’s care and welfare;</p> <p>help each child to express views, wishes and feelings;</p>	<p>28 October 2022</p>

<p>help each child to understand how the child’s views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child;</p> <p>regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home’s care;</p> <p>ensure that each child—</p> <p>is enabled to provide feedback to, and raise issues with, a relevant person about the support and services that the child receives. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(b)(i))</p>	
<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>28 October 2022</p>

<p>help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child’s relevant plans; and</p> <p>that each child has access to appropriate equipment, facilities and resources to support the child’s learning. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii)(x)(b))</p> <p>Specifically, leaders and managers must continue to develop an ambitious education curriculum in all subjects. This should be supported by an ethos of high expectations that value children’s attendance and participation in education.</p>	
<p>The enjoyment and achievement standard is that children take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, cultural, intellectual, physical and social interests and skills.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff help each child to—</p> <p>develop the child’s interests and hobbies;</p> <p>participate in activities that the child enjoys and which meet and expand the child’s interests and preferences; and</p> <p>make a positive contribution to the home and the wider community; and</p> <p>that each child has access to a range of activities that enable the child to pursue the child’s interests and hobbies. (Regulation 9 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(b))</p>	28 October 2022
<p>The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on—</p> <p>mutual respect and trust;</p> <p>an understanding about acceptable behaviour.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p>	28 October 2022

<p>encourage each child to take responsibility for the child's behaviour, in accordance with the child's age and understanding. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(iii))</p> <p>Specifically, ensure that consequences for unwanted behaviour are linked to the incident and support restorative practice.</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 children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose;</p> <p>that arrangements are in place to—</p> <p>ensure the effective induction of each child into the home;</p> <p>manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and</p> <p>plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority;</p> <p>that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(c))</p>	<p>28 October 2022</p>
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>the privacy of children is appropriately protected. (Regulation 21 (a))</p> <p>Specifically, ensure that:</p> <p>all staff follow the home's prohibited items policy;</p>	<p>28 October 2022</p>

<p>records of searches demonstrate that searches are being carried out in line with the policy and are proportionate to risk;</p> <p>actions that compromise children’s privacy are taken only when there is a risk of significant harm.</p>	
<p>The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children’s home.</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; and</p> <p>a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)(c))</p>	28 October 2022
<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>In particular, obtain a reference from all applicants’ most recent employer.</p>	28 October 2022
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>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—</p> <p>the name of the child;</p> <p>details of the child’s behaviour leading to the use of the measure;</p> <p>the date, time and location of the use of the measure;</p> <p>a description of the measure and its duration;</p>	28 October 2022

<p>details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;</p> <p>the name of the person who used the measure (“the user”), and of any other person present when the measure was used;</p> <p>the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and</p> <p>a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;</p> <p>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”)—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p> <p>has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and</p> <p>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))</p>	
<p>Subject to paragraph (6), the registered person must establish a procedure for considering complaints made by or on behalf of children.</p> <p>The registered person must ensure that a record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of any investigation. (Regulation (39) (1) (3))</p>	28 October 2022
<p>When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person—</p> <p>if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires; and</p> <p>to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home’s records (except for a child’s case records, unless the child and the child’s placing authority consent) as the independent person requires.</p>	28 October 2022

The independent person must produce a report about a visit (“the independent person’s report”) which sets out, in particular, the independent person’s opinion as to whether—

children are effectively safeguarded; and

the conduct of the home promotes children’s well-being.
(Regulation 44 (2)(a)(b) (4)(a)(b))

Specifically, the registered person should review the effectiveness of the current arrangements to ensure that they are effective in identifying, and supporting the registered person to maintain, good standards of care and safety for the children.

Recommendations

- Leaders and managers should ensure that the ethos of the home supports each child to learn. In particular:

- use children’s starting points and identified learning and support needs to plan learning logically in all subjects, to help children develop their knowledge, skills, behaviours and confidence sufficiently so that they know more, remember more and can do more over time
- in vocational subjects, plan and teach a curriculum that enables children to develop, consolidate and master the subject-specific knowledge and practical skills that they need.

(‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 29, paragraph 5.18)

- The registered person should ensure that no more than half the staff on duty at any one time are agency staff, and that these staff have the skills and attributes to meet the needs of the children. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 54, paragraphs 10.16 and 10.17)

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.

Secure children's home details

Unique reference number: SC033362

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider: Peterborough City & Cambridgeshire County Councils

Registered provider address: Scott House, 5 George Street, Huntingham, Cambridgeshire PE29 3AD

Responsible individual: Ricky Cooper

Registered manager: Jeannette Winson

Inspectors

Paul Scott, Social Care Inspector

Cathey Moriarty, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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