

SC1247670

West Cumbria Care and Support

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered by a charitable organisation to provide care under short-break arrangements for up to five children. The home is registered to care for children with learning disabilities.

There is a registered manager in post. The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2016.

Inspection date: 17 November 2022

This monitoring visit

This visit took place to monitor the actions taken by the provider in relation to compliance notices served on 21 October 2022. The notices were issued under regulation 12, the protection of children standard, regulation 13, the leadership and management standard, regulation 14, the care planning standard and regulation 35, the behaviour management standard.

The registered manager has not made adequate progress in improving the quality of risk management plans for some children who have short breaks at this home. Children's plans are not up to date to ensure that they reflect children's current risks and needs, and that staff have the necessary information to care for children safely. The manager had identified an escalation in one child's behaviour. However, despite this, there was no evidence of the child's safety plans and risk assessments being reviewed. This impacts on the safeguarding of children and their progress and experience when they spend time at the home.

Not all children accessing this service have the relevant, up-to-date local authority plans in place. These plans are necessary to help staff know children's individual needs. The registered manager has not escalated this sufficiently to the relevant authorities.

There has been an improvement in the recording of incidents within the home. The manager has taken steps to ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding, and safeguarding concerns are shared with the relevant professionals and family as appropriate.

Staff working in the home are not receiving regular supervision. Since the last inspection, the registered manager has implemented a supervision tracker to record when staff supervision is scheduled. However, the tracker showed that planned supervision sessions had not taken place, and this was not identified by the registered manager prior to the visit.

An independent fire risk assessment identified actions to improve the safety of the home. The registered manager has taken action to address a number of these shortfalls. However, not all actions had been addressed at the time of the visit.

Since the last inspection, training in cerebral palsy has been identified as necessary for staff. However, not all staff have completed this. Furthermore, staff still require training in communication, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. This is necessary to ensure that staff have the relevant training to meet children's individual needs.

Some required routine maintenance has now been completed in the home. However, further improvement is needed to ensure that it is a homely environment for children. The registered manager acknowledges this shortfall.

Some of the home's internal doors have locks on them, including children's bedrooms. This means that children do not have access to all areas of the home. Although the manager advised that these were not used when children are accessing the service, they detract from the otherwise domestic feel of the property.

The provider has taken sufficient action to meet the compliance notices under regulation 12, the protection of children standard, regulation 14, the care planning standard and regulation 35, the behaviour management standard. The provider has not taken sufficient action to address the compliance notice under regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. As a result of this, a compliance notice under regulation 13 has been issued.

Other requirements were not reviewed as part of this monitoring visit and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/10/2022	Full	Inadequate
08/03/2022	Full	Good
29/01/2020	Full	Outstanding
27/11/2018	Full	Outstanding

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 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 work as a team where appropriate;</p> <p>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;</p> <p>ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child;</p> <p>understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home;</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) (2)(a)(b)(c)(e)(f)(h))</p> <p>This relates specifically to the manager ensuring that all staff receive regular supervision and complete relevant training to meet children's needs.</p>	21 January 2023

<p>The manager must ensure that up-to-date local authority plans are in place to inform children's care, and must regularly review all records/plans to ensure that children are safeguarded and receive a consistent approach from the staff team in respect of behaviour management and support.</p>	
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*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: SC1247670

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: West Cumbria Care and Support

Registered provider address: West Cumbria Care And Support, 26 Stanley Street, Workington CA14 2JD

Responsible individual: Catherine Parker

Registered manager: Mark Swanston

Inspectors

Kelly McCurdy, Social Care Inspector

Mrs Genevieve O'Reilly, Social Care Inspector

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