

# SC032154

**National Autistic Society (The)**

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

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

This home is part of a charitable trust. It provides care for up to eight children who may have autism spectrum disorder. Children may have other associated difficulties, such as sensory impairment and/or physical disabilities. At the time of this inspection, two children were living in the home.

The home is divided into two houses, with a communal hub and garden. This registered children's home is also part of a specialist school that provides education on site.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2022.

**Inspection date: 30 January 2023**

## **This monitoring visit**

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 8 and 9 November 2022. Inspectors found significant breaches in regulations relating to the safety and protection of children, the leadership and management of the home, restraint and the deprivation of liberty, behaviour management policies and records, and the notification of serious events. As a result of that inspection, Ofsted issued a notice restricting accommodation and issued five compliance notices under regulations 12, 13, 20, 35 and 40.

On 19 December 2022, Ofsted carried out a monitoring visit to review the notice restricting accommodation. The inspector concluded from that monitoring visit that the provider was adhering to the notice restricting accommodation. However, the restriction notice remained in place because the compliance notices were not scheduled to be reviewed at the time of the visit.

On 4 January 2023, Ofsted carried out a monitoring visit to review the five compliance notices and the notice restricting accommodation. The inspectors

concluded from that monitoring visit that the provider is adhering to the notice restricting accommodation. The inspectors concluded from the monitoring visit that five steps set in the compliance notices with regard to regulations 20 and 35 were not met.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the two reissued compliance notices and the notice restricting accommodation. Since the last full inspection, no children have moved into this home. This monitoring visit included the review of documents and discussions with the manager, responsible individual, staff and the children living in the home. The inspectors concluded from this monitoring visit that all the steps set in the reissued compliance notices with regard to regulations 20 and 35 were met. The notice restricting accommodation will be left to expire, with that date being 6 February 2023.

There have been no physical restraints of children since the last inspection. Revised monitoring systems mean that, going forward, if children are physically restrained, the manager has oversight of all incidents. This will help to ensure that practice is safe and that the views of the children and staff are heard and acted on.

Staff knowledge around lawful physical restraint practice has been developed. The manager has created a powerful learning source to evidence the impact of unlawful physical restraint. This learning includes case studies where children and adults have been seriously harmed or have died from unlawful restraint practice. The manager's implementation of group reflective sessions tests the staff's understanding of new learning. Any gaps in staff knowledge are identified and additional guidance provided.

There is improved guidance and oversight on the use of 'unplanned responses', which is the term applied when staff use restraint techniques that are not taught as part of the physical restraint methods permitted in the home. Any unplanned response will be scrutinised by the manager to assure that this response was necessary and proportionate.

The organisation has enhanced its physical restraint methodology training programme. Inspectors have seen the developed training course, and the emphasis is on children's homes regulation and lawful practice. Staff attendance of the three-day course is a learning opportunity to develop their competency to confidently practise in line with the children's homes regulations.

Children's individual behaviour support plans record that restraint holds are permitted. These plans provide the staff with guidance about specific restraint holds that are appropriate for individual children, based on their needs and in line with the organisation's physical restraint methodology.

The organisation's restrictive practice policy has been developed in accordance with children's homes regulation. The policy provides procedural guidance that improves leadership oversight and transparency of physical restraint practice. Quality

assurance measures that are integral to the policy help managers and senior leaders to identify whether physical restraint practice has compromised the welfare and protection of children.

The requirements and recommendation that were raised at the full inspection and do not relate to the compliance notices have not been reviewed as part of this monitoring visit. The requirements and recommendation have been carried forward and will be reviewed at the next full inspection.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/11/2022	Full	Inadequate
22/03/2022	Full	Outstanding
21/01/2020	Full	Outstanding
08/01/2019	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 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>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff—</p> <p>protect and promote each child's welfare;</p> <p>make decisions about the day-to-day arrangements for each child, in accordance with the child's relevant plans, which give the child an appropriate degree of freedom and choice. (Regulation 6 (1)(a) (2)(b)(ii)(ix))</p>	1 January 2023
<p>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—</p> <p>children are effectively safeguarded; and</p> <p>the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.</p> <p>The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to—</p> <p>HMCI. (Regulation 44 (4)(a)(b) (7)(a))</p>	1 January 2023
<p>In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating—</p> <p>the quality of care provided for children;</p>	1 January 2023

the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and

any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.

The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff.  
(Regulation 45 (2)(a)(b)(c) (5))

## Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, and should understand the key role they play in the training and development of staff in the home. In particular, all staff should have up-to-date food hygiene training and the senior team should receive relevant risk-assessment training. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)

## 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:** SC032154

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

**Registered provider:** National Autistic Society (The)

**Registered provider address:** 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG

**Responsible individual:** Victoria Moss

**Registered manager:** Emma Knott

## **Inspectors**

Jennifer Fenlon, Social Care Inspector

Gemma McDonnell, Social Care Inspector

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