

SC1263766

Registered provider: Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides care for up to four children who may have social and/or emotional difficulties and may have learning difficulties.

A notice of restriction of accommodation was served by Ofsted on 6 June 2023 to 28 August 2023. This means that no children can move into the home during this period without the notice being lifted.

Two children were living at the home at the time of this monitoring visit.

The registered manager post has been vacant since January 2021. A new permanent manager has been appointed. He has not yet applied for registration with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 18 July 2023

This monitoring visit

One child has moved out of the home since the last inspection. The manager felt the home was unable to meet the child's individual needs or keep them safe, and the child moved in an unplanned way. The manager has failed to reflect on this or evidence lessons learned to support children moving into the home and living together successfully in the future.

The manager has made some progress in addressing the quality of children's risk plans. These have been reviewed and updated to provide information for staff to follow to reduce the risks to children.

Two team meetings have taken place since the last inspection. The manager has discussed incidents and risks with staff alongside the changes to children's plans. This means that leaders and managers can be assured that children are being cared

for by staff who know and understand the individual plans in place to safeguard children.

Staff have taken appropriate action when children have gone missing from the home. This includes actively looking for children, contacting friends and family and maintaining regular phone contact with them. The approach to children returning to the home has changed. Staff will now collect children instead of them returning alone on public transport. Missing-from-home episodes are followed up with an independent return home interview.

Leaders and managers have ensured that children have been supported to manage conflict and repair relationships. Since the last inspection, the manager has provided children with the opportunity to speak with independent advocates. Children are now encouraged to communicate their views and wishes about all aspects of their care, both with the staff team and professionals independent of the home.

The manager and staff have been committed to their learning and development and acknowledged the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. Staff have completed a number of training programmes to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to support children, and they have implemented this learning into the home's practice. The manager has not yet ensured that all staff have completed missing-from-home training.

The home is visited each month by an independent person to monitor the progress and experiences of children. Leaders and managers have challenged the quality of this service and raised their concerns with senior managers for a change in service.

The manager was able to demonstrate some improvement in their monitoring and oversight of the home to support them in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the home.

The condition of the home has begun to improve. The manager and staff have added personal touches, such as photos of children and new soft furnishings. Further work is needed, such as replacing carpets and repainting fencing to improve the standard of conditions for children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/05/2023	Full	Inadequate
02/08/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
01/02/2022	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 with 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 has sufficient staff to provide care for 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f))</p> <p>Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that there is managerial oversight of staff practice and the daily care being provided to children. Additionally, all staff should have the relevant knowledge and skills to meet the children’s needs, and an independent person should be appointed to undertake independent visits.</p>	<p>17 July 2023</p>

<p>The health and well-being standard is that—</p> <p>the health and well-being needs of children are met;</p> <p>children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and</p> <p>children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles.</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>understand the child’s health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child’s health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child’s age and understanding;</p> <p>understand and develop skills to promote the child’s well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(ii)(iv))</p> <p>Specifically, leaders and managers should ensure that support is provided to children in respect of substance misuse issues.</p>	<p>17 July 2023</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>manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and</p> <p>that each child’s relevant plans are followed;</p>	<p>17 July 2023</p>

<p>that the child’s placing authority is contacted, and a review of that child’s relevant plans is requested, if—</p> <p>the registered person considers that the child is at risk of harm or has concerns that the care provided for the child is inadequate to meet the child’s needs. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(i)(ii)(c)(e)(i))</p> <p>Specifically, leaders and managers should ensure that plans for children moving into the home include an assessment of how children’s needs can be met, that care is planned and provided to meet children’s identified needs and that action is taken to review the care provided to children when they cannot be safeguarded or when their needs cannot be met.</p>	
<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; and</p> <p>positive responses to other children and adults.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans;</p> <p>help each child to develop socially aware behaviour;</p> <p>encourage each child to take responsibility for the child’s behaviour, in accordance with the child’s age and understanding;</p> <p>help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone;</p> <p>communicate to each child expectations about the child’s behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child’s age and understanding;</p>	<p>17 July 2023</p>

<p>understand how children’s previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children;</p> <p>de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children;</p> <p>understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable; and</p> <p>have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them; and</p> <p>that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(ix)(xi)(xii)(xiii)(b))</p> <p>Specifically, leaders and managers should ensure that children are supported to develop positive relationships within the home. They should ensure that there are strategies in place to safeguard children from violent behaviour within the home and that children are supported when there are incidents of bullying in the home. They should ensure that there are clear boundaries and expectations to promote positive behaviour within the home.</p>	
<p>The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</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>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. (Regulation 6 (1) (2)(b)(ii)(iv)(v))</p>	<p>17 July 2023</p>

<p>Specifically, leaders and managers should ensure that direct work is undertaken with children to address their personal and individual risks and needs.</p>	
<p>The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children’s home at least once each month.</p> <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> <p>A visit by the independent person to the home may be unannounced.</p> <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’s report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions.</p> <p>If the independent person becomes aware of a potential conflict of interest (whether under regulation 43(3) or otherwise) after a visit to the home, the independent person must include in the independent person’s report—</p> <p>details of the conflict of interest; and</p> <p>the reasons why the independent person did not notify the registered provider of the conflict of interest before the visit. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5) (6)(a)(b))</p>	<p>17 July 2023</p>

<p>Specifically, leaders and managers should ensure that visits are undertaken monthly by an independent person, that the duration of visits is sufficient to obtain thorough scrutiny of the home and that reports include feedback from children, staff and relatives.</p>	
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;</p> <p>an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>a child protection enquiry involving a child—</p> <p>is instigated; or</p> <p>concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))</p>	<p>17 July 2023</p>

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: SC1263766

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Town Hall, Market Street, Hyde, Tameside SK14 1AL

Responsible individual: Tammy Sutherland

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Kelly McCurdy, Social Care Inspector

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