

## **Compliance action taken for childcare provision**

Ref: EY415532/5413011

Date: 17 May 2023

### **Summary of outcome**

All early years providers must meet the legal requirements in the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, which you can find at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundationstage-framework--2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundationstage-framework--2). If we find that a provider is not meeting the requirements, we can take action to ensure they put matters right.

On 5 April 2023 the provider notified us of a safeguarding concern. The notification means that the provider met their legal responsibility as set out in the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage to notify Ofsted of a significant event. However, this notification indicated that the provider was not meeting some of the legal requirements.

On 16 March 2023 and 18 April 2023, we carried out an inspection and found the provider was not meeting some of these requirements. The overall effectiveness of the provision was judged to be inadequate. The inspection report sets out the actions the provider was required to take to meet the requirements.

We suspended the provider's registration on 13 April 2023 because we believe children are or may be at risk of harm. Suspension allows time for the provider to take steps to reduce or eliminate the risk of harm to children. The provider has a right to appeal against a suspension. The provider may not provide childcare for which registration is required while the suspension is in place and may commit an offence if they do so.

On 10 and 11 May 2023 we carried out further regulatory visits. We found new areas of concern. This means the provider was not meeting other requirements as set out in the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage.

In relation to the new areas of concern, on 15 May 2023 we served a further welfare requirements notice. This is a legal notice that requires the provider to take the actions below within the timescales set out. The provider will be able to give parents further information about this. The provider is still registered with Ofsted.

Actions needed by 19 May 2023:

- ensure all staff understand their responsibilities to be alert to any issues of concern in a child's life at home or elsewhere, with particular regard to County Lines, Female Genital Mutilation and reviewing unexplained absences of children

- ensure all staff have a clear understanding of 'Prevent Duty guidance for England and Wales' so they can recognise possible indicators of abuse associated with extremism and radicalisation and know what action to take
- demonstrate how you will ensure that all staff have appropriate induction and training so they have the required skills, knowledge and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

On 22 May 2023 we carried out a monitoring visit. We found that the provider had met some of the safeguarding and welfare requirements but not others.

Staff have received training and improved their knowledge of how to recognise and report concerns about children's safety or welfare. This includes an understanding of issues of concern in a child's life at home or elsewhere. Knowledge of the 'Prevent' duty has also improved. Staff can also now explain appropriately what they would do if they have concerns about the conduct of a member of staff. The provider has put in place arrangements for the supervision of staff. A new manager has been appointed who holds the required qualification to fulfil this role. Induction procedures for new staff, or for staff who take on new areas of responsibility have been developed. The provider has also produced improved systems for the recording of concerns about children's safety and well-being. These have been shared with staff.

However, two of the actions set remain unmet. We have served another welfare requirements notice. This is a legal notice that requires the provider to take the actions below within the timescales set out. The provider will be able to give parents further information about this. The provider is still registered with Ofsted.

Actions needed by 31 May 2023:

- ensure that there is an up-to-date safeguarding policy and procedures which are in line with the those of the Local Safeguarding Partnership
- demonstrate the suitability of all staff by providing records relating to appropriate vetting procedures.

On 25 May 2023 we extended the suspension of the provider's registration because we believe children remain at risk of harm. Suspension allows time for the provider to take steps to reduce or eliminate the risk of harm to children. The provider may not provide childcare for which registration is required while suspension is in place and may commit an offence if they do so.

The provider is still registered with Ofsted.

On 2 June 2023 we carried out another monitoring visit. We found that the provider had updated the safeguarding policy and procedures. It now includes appropriate references to the Local Safeguarding Partnership's procedures. The provider was also able to provide records to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

The provider is still registered with Ofsted.

On 6 July 2023 we extended the suspension of the provider's registration because we believe children remain at risk of harm. Suspension allows time for the provider to take steps to reduce or eliminate the risk of harm to children. The provider may not provide childcare for which registration is required while suspension is in place and may commit an offence if they do so.

The provider is still registered with Ofsted.

On 4 August 2023 we took steps to cancel the provider's registration. The provider has a right to object to our intention to take these steps.

On 17 August 2023 we extended the suspension of the provider's registration because we believe children remain at risk of harm. Suspension allows time for the provider to take steps to reduce or eliminate the risk of harm to children. The provider may not provide childcare for which registration is required while suspension is in place and may commit an offence if they do so.

On 21 August 2023 the provider appealed to the decision to suspend registration.

The suspension remains in place while the Health, Education and Social Care First-tier Tribunal hears the appeal. The provider may not provide childcare for which registration is required while the suspension is in place and may commit an offence if they do so.

On 5 September 2023, we lifted the suspension because the provider took appropriate action to deal with the matter that led to the suspension. We are satisfied that the identified risk of harm to children has been removed.

We took steps to cancel the provider's registration. On 21 August 2023 the provider objected to us taking these steps. Having reviewed the provider's reasons for objecting to this step, and their proposed actions, we have decided not to proceed with cancellation of the registration.

The provider remains registered with Ofsted.

## **Publication of compliance action**

We aim to ensure that the welfare of children and young people is protected in the services we regulate. The Childcare Act 2006 and accompanying regulations set out our responsibilities to regulate childminders and childcare providers. This includes the

enforcement powers we have in relation to those registered providers who do not comply with the requirements for registration.

We publish details of any actions we take, or the childminder or childcare provider takes to bring about compliance with requirements on our website for a period of five years.

For further information please read the Early years compliance handbook which can be found here at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-provider-non-compliance-action-by-ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-provider-non-compliance-action-by-ofsted).