

# SC033457

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

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

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

The home can care for up to 24 children aged between five and 18 years. It provides care for up to 14 children placed by the Youth Custody Service and up to 10 children under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who are placed by local authorities.

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

The commissioning of health services in this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 2007.

There were 23 children living in the home at the time of this inspection.

**Inspection date: 31 January 2024**

**Date of last inspection: 20 June 2023**

**Judgement at last inspection: good**

**Enforcement action since last inspection: none**

## **Information about this inspection**

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children

- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

## Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The quality of care and understanding of children's individual and diverse needs is underpinned by the positive relationships with staff and their knowledge of the children. This helps the children to feel settled, safe and relaxed in their environment. One child said, 'Staff are alright; they are helping me to move on with my life.'

Children have good relationships with each other and their interactions are friendly, positive and engaging. Any disputes between the children are dealt with effectively by staff using a resolve and restore approach. As a result, children are learning different and more amicable ways to settle their differences.

Key working is used effectively to address children's needs in line with their care plans. Records are clear, and children's records demonstrate their engagement and progress.

Children benefit from a multi-disciplinary approach in meeting their needs. Care staff, health staff and education staff work together to implement well-thought-out formulation plans. Children are involved in their plans to move on from the home, and this contributes to a more successful discharge.

Since the last inspection, the use of physical restraint has reduced significantly. There is greater accountability and oversight at all management levels, which includes independent scrutiny. Improved quality assurance and auditing processes identify shortfalls and recognise good practice to ensure appropriate reflection and learning.

Team days and individual formal staff supervision sessions have been used to address previous practice issues raised in the last inspection. This has helped to improve children's safety and protection. Staff spoken to were clear on their responsibilities to report any concerns relating to staff conduct and practice. Bitesize training continues to be a useful forum for staff to better understand the individual needs of the children currently in their care.

There are occasions when children have been placed in single separation, where children are locked into an area alone, during periods of acute staff shortages. The recording and rationale for this measure of control has improved; however, inconsistencies remain. Recording activity does not provide evidence that all children have been told the reasons for this, and they have remained in their rooms for long periods of time without exercise. The recommendation made at the last inspection has been carried forward.

Leaders and managers have taken suitable action to address the one requirement and two of the recommendations from the previous inspection. Recommendations relating to education and health will be reviewed at the next full inspection.

## Recent inspection history

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Inspection judgement</b>
20/06/2023	Full	Good
27/09/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
06/10/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
11/05/2021	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, 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.

### Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the ethos of the home supports each child to learn. In particular, school leaders should ensure that teachers and classroom-based assistants are clear about their roles. In addition, teachers need to give children effective feedback to support their learning. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 29, paragraph 5.18)
- The registered person should ensure that children in secure children's homes are only placed in single separation when necessary to prevent injury to any person (including for example, the child who is being restrained) or to prevent serious damage to the property of any person (including the child who is being restrained). A record should be made and kept of all uses of single separation in secure children's homes (regulation 17 of The Children (Secure Accommodation) Regulations 1991). In particular, records should include details of when these incidents are reviewed in line with the home's policy. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 50, paragraph 9.65)
- The registered person should ensure that they make suitable arrangements to manage, administer and transport medication. These are fundamentally the same sorts of arrangements as a good parent would make but are subject to additional safeguards. In particular, that staff are up to date with medication training and competency assessments. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35, paragraph 7.15)

## Secure children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC033457

**Provision sub-type:** Secure Unit

**Registered provider:** Leeds City Council

**Registered provider address:** Civic Hall, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 1UR

**Responsible individual:** Benjamin Finley

**Registered manager:** Francis N'Jie

## Inspectors

Cath Sikakana, Social Care Inspector

Dawn Parton, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children’s social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children’s services, and inspects services for looked after children after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2024



