

# 1263766

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 home provides care for up to four children who may have learning difficulties and experience social and/or emotional difficulties.

Four children were living at the home at the time of this visit. Two children spoke with the inspector about their experiences of living in the home.

An interim manager has been in post since May 2024 but has not yet applied to register with Ofsted.

**Inspection date: 17 June 2024**

## **This monitoring visit**

This home was judged inadequate at the full inspection in April 2024. Compliance notices were issued under section 22A of the Care Standards Act 2000. These were in relation to Regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and Regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard). The purpose of this visit was to monitor the actions taken by the provider to meet the steps in the compliance notices.

Since the full inspection, action has been taken to stabilise the staff team and ensure that staff are able to meet the needs of the children living in the home. This has included carrying out a skills audit of all staff and implementing a series of relevant training courses to develop practice in the home. Consequently, staff feel more confident in their roles.

The head of service and interim manager have created a detailed action plan to address the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. Although the action plan is in the early stages of implementation, it has enabled leaders and managers to make

some positive changes and improve their oversight of the home. A permanent service manager has also been appointed but has not yet started in post.

Staff are supported with regular supervision sessions and team meetings that have input from external therapeutic professionals. The input from therapeutic professionals has enabled staff to further develop their understanding of children's needs. They have also supported the team to identify children's health needs and make referrals to appropriate therapeutic services. When health appointments are made, children are supported to attend.

No children have moved into or out of the home since the last inspection. An increase in staffing has enabled staff to spend more quality time with children and take them on activities. This helps children to develop positive relationships with the team. Consequently, children say that they feel happier and more relaxed in the home.

New risk management plans are being implemented to ensure that staff understand how to keep children safe. All staff are being trained in updating and using these plans to ensure that they can help children in a meaningful way. However, the plans are not yet embedded into practice and their impact cannot be measured.

Following this visit, a case review took place where it was agreed that the provider has taken sufficient action to meet the compliance notices issued under regulations 12 and 13.

The requirements made at the last inspection will be reviewed at the next inspection.

## Recent inspection history

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Inspection judgement</b>
30/04/2024	Full	Inadequate
22/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/05/2023	Full	Inadequate
02/08/2022	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 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, subject to regulation 22 (contact and access to communications), contact between each child and the child’s parents, relatives and friends, is promoted in accordance with the child’s relevant plans. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(d))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that children only move into the home when their needs can be met safely alongside the needs of other children living in the home and that all children are supported to have positive experiences of moving into and on from the home.</p>	<p>28 June 2024</p>
<p>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child’s education and training targets, as recorded in the child’s relevant plans;</p> <p>support each child’s learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and,</p>	<p>28 June 2024</p>

<p>where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study;</p> <p>understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers;</p> <p>help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment;</p> <p>promote opportunities for each child to learn informally;</p> <p>maintain regular contact with each child’s education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child’s education and training and to maximise the child’s achievement;</p> <p>raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child’s education or training provider and the child’s placing authority;</p> <p>help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible;</p> <p>help each child who is above compulsory school age to participate in further education, training or employment and to prepare for future care, education or employment;</p> <p>help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child’s relevant plans; and</p> <p>that each child has access to appropriate equipment, facilities and resources to support the child’s learning. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)(b))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that children’s daily routines encourage and promote their engagement in education.</p>	
<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>28 June 2024</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 have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of 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>demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on—</p> <p>feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received and</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)(c)(f)(g)(ii)(h))</p>	
<p>The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if—</p> <p>the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children;</p> <p>the monitoring or surveillance is no more intrusive than necessary, having regard to the child’s need for privacy. (Regulation 24 (1)(a)(d))</p> <p>Leaders and managers must ensure that the use of surveillance is regularly reviewed in the home for all children. Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that systems in place are fit for purpose and that the home does not operate a blanket approach for all children.</p> <p>This requirement was raised at the last inspection and has been restated.</p>	<p>28 June 2024</p>

<p>The registered person must maintain records (“case records”) for each child which—</p> <p>include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child;</p> <p>are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b))</p> <p>Specifically, leaders and managers should ensure that all children have up-to-date plans and that each child’s records are completed and maintained to a good standard.</p> <p>This requirement was raised at the last inspection and has been restated.</p>	<p>28 June 2024</p>
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—</p> <p>the name of the child;</p> <p>details of the child’s behaviour leading to the use of the measure;</p> <p>the date, time and location of the use of the measure;</p> <p>a description of the measure and its duration;</p> <p>details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;</p> <p>the name of the person who used the measure (“the user”), and of any other person present when the measure was used;</p> <p>the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and</p> <p>a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;</p> <p>within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is</p>	<p>28 June 2024</p>

<p>authorised by the registered person to do so (“the authorised person”)—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p> <p>has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and</p> <p>within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.</p> <p>(Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))</p>	
<p>The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children (“a quality of care review”) at least once every 6 months.</p> <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> <p>the feedback and opinions of children about the children’s home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and</p> <p>any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.</p> <p>After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review (“the quality of care review report”).</p> <p>The registered person must—</p> <p>supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed; and</p> <p>make a copy of the quality of care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home.</p>	<p>28 June 2024</p>



<p>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 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))</p>	
<p>The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust;  an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—  that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(b))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that children are supported to develop and maintain positive relationships with each other and with all staff working in the home.</p>	28 June 2024
<p>The children’s views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who—  develop positive relationships with them;  engage with them; and  take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children’s care and welfare and their lives. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that children’s views are listened to, especially about moving into or out of the home.</p>	28 June 2024
<p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—  undertake appropriate continuing professional development;  receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and  have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)(c))</p>	28 June 2024

<p>In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff receive supervision in line with the organisation's supervision policy.</p>	
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## **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:** 1263766

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

**Registered provider:** Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

**Registered provider address:** Tameside One, Market Place, Ashton-under-Lyne  
OL6 6BH

**Responsible individual:** Post vacant

**Registered manager:** Post vacant

## Inspector

Colin Jones, Social Care Inspector

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