

1227788

Registered provider: Solent Childcare Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a small private provider. The home can provide care for up to two children. There are two children currently living in the home.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since January 2017.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 January 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **outstanding**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **outstanding**

The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 14 December 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/12/2021	Full	Good
09/07/2019	Full	Good
21/11/2018	Full	Good
09/11/2017	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Children thrive while living in this home. They experience high-quality care from a team of staff who know the children well and understand their individual needs. Staff also understand the ethos of the home and the care it delivers, which means that children experience consistent safe parenting. Therapeutic care is a thread that runs seamlessly throughout the home. This provides the consistency, routines, boundaries and play that children need to flourish.

Children make exceptional progress. For example, one child has developed maturity, confidence and self-assurance. A key, trusted member of staff supports the child to engage in therapy sessions. As a result, the child is developing the skills to identify how they feel and to seek help and support when needed. The child is able to take part meaningfully in their review meetings and to share their views about their care.

Both of the children's progress at school is outstanding. An education professional describes one child as a model student. He linked the child's excellent progress to the stable and secure base provided by staff in this home. A professional for the other child highlights the 'incredible difference' that moving to the home has made for the child. They are now attending school regularly and are able to engage in learning, which was not previously possible.

Staff are ambitious for children. They understand children's historical experiences and individual needs. They work tirelessly to overcome barriers and to support children to make progress. Staff recognise the different needs of the children, setting bespoke targets appropriate for their individual stages of development. For example, staff are helping one child to rapidly develop their own self-care skills through ambitious targets and consistent support. Staff relentlessly pursue opportunities for children to develop their social skills. Staff recognise and understand the impact of children's individual needs on what they can do and consider this when planning outings. This positive attitude from staff influences the views of children. One child has encouraged the other to attend a local group, talking positively about their own experiences.

Staff support children to spend time with those who are important to them. The manager strongly advocates for children and the importance of their enduring family relationships. Staff provide ongoing support for children who leave the home. They recognise their role as part of an extended support system that young people can call on for advice. This shows children living at the home that the dedication and care from staff go beyond their time there.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Children's behaviour shows they feel safe in the home. They enjoy strong connections with key staff. This allows them to share worries or concerns they might have. Behaviour plans help staff to understand how to best support children. Staff benefit from regular consultation with a clinical psychologist. This helps staff to better understand the impact of trauma on the children.

Staff track incidents in the home to understand the children's behavioural needs and development. Restraint is used as a last resort during incidents. Following an incident, staff have meaningful conversations with children to ensure they understand why they were restrained. Leaders and managers review incidents. However, the record of review does not always identify what learning has taken place following incidents.

Staff receive safeguarding training. There have been no safeguarding incidents identified in the home. However, there are missed opportunities for the manager to ensure staff knowledge remains current, for example through discussions at team meetings and supervision.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

A dynamic, experienced manager leads a staff team that strives for the best for children. Dedicated and committed staff provide excellent, consistent care for children. Staff work flexibly to support children and ensure they have positive experiences. Careful recruitment of new staff ensures their skills match children's needs.

The manager reflects on the quality of care in the home and across the wider organisation. She identifies both the good work that has been done and the areas where she wants to improve further. The manager's approach embodies the therapeutic ethos of the home, which then comes through in staff practice. Therefore, although some staff are yet to complete formal training, they understand the practical application of therapeutic parenting. Team meetings continue the thread of therapeutic care, and children are central to all discussions. Staff make meaningful use of a clinical psychologist in team meetings to explore relationships and identify consistent parenting approaches.

Children live in an environment which embodies that of a positive family home. Staff cultivate a comfortable, clean space filled with toys and games for children. As a result, children enjoy spending time in the communal areas. Children enjoy the predictable routines staff use, such as 'fake-away Friday' and roast dinners on Sundays. This provides children with continuity of experience among the staff team.

Professionals speak extremely highly of the home. Two professionals state they wish they could replicate the care and support given to children by staff. They identify the exceptional progress children make and the benefit of the parenting approach for children.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that they review incidents of restraint to identify areas for learning, and they should include the information that plans are being updated with. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 49, paragraph 9.59)
- The registered person should ensure that they promote staff awareness of safeguarding through the use of refresher activities, given the low incidence of safeguarding concerns in the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.12)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1227788

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Solent Childcare Ltd

Registered provider address: 9 St Georges Yard, Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey
GU9 7LW

Responsible individual: Charlotte Tanner

Registered manager: Kirsty Sheppard

Inspector

Clare Nixon, Social Care Inspector

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