

1227788

Registered provider: Solent Child Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home can provide care for up to two children who have experienced childhood trauma and display emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home has not had a registered manager since July 2023. The deputy manager was promoted to the manager role. They applied to register in January 2024.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home.

Inspection dates: 30 and 31 January 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 10 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/01/2023	Full	Outstanding
14/12/2021	Full	Good
09/07/2019	Full	Good
21/11/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children like living at the home. They are content with their care and have good relationships with staff. One child said that they liked living at the home because staff were always kind and supported them. They voiced being able to share their worries with all staff members. Children benefit from the homely environment, appearing relaxed and comfortable.

Staff help children to make progress in important areas of their lives. For example, one child is going to start studying for their GCSEs and has started to attend a local football club. Another child has started to attend a local school, which is better suited to their needs.

Staff create opportunities for informal learning at home, which contribute towards qualifications. Children are currently learning about equality and diversity. Using a global map, the children identify a country they want to visit, and staff help to immerse them in the culture.

Staff are committed to helping the children to see people who are important to them. For one child, they offer good support to ensure family time is positive and that everyone has a nice time together. Staff supported another child to re-establish healthy dynamics with their sibling; they look forward to spending time together.

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

Leaders and managers understand the importance of life-story work and how this can be used to help children make sense of their lived experiences. They strongly advocate for children to attend therapy to help them achieve this.

Staff support children to understand safe and socially acceptable behaviours. Staff understand the impact of children's previous experiences and ensure they offer the right support to each child. They use their therapeutic skills to encourage children to voice their feelings. This is helping children to communicate how they feel so staff can adapt their care and support to meet this need.

When proportionate, staff use restraint to keep the children, and others, safe. After these incidents, staff reassure the children that they are still cared for and valued. They give children the opportunity to share their views. Staff reflect on events and managers have oversight of these incidents. However, there is limited learning from incidents; staff are not consistently considering what they could have done differently.

Staff have meaningful conversations with children about safe behaviours and how to behave positively both in the home and the community. They involve multi-agency professionals in these conversations when needed to aid the children's learning.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Since the last inspection, the registered manager was promoted to the responsible individual post. A new manager was appointed but decided to leave. The deputy manager then took up the manager post. They have well-established relationships with the children. Despite there being a period of change, the manager and responsible individual has provided consistency within the leadership team.

The responsible individual has a good understanding of the current strengths and weaknesses within the home. They are committed to supporting the development of the manager and deputy manager using mentoring and by modelling leadership behaviours.

Leaders and managers are strong and proactive advocates for children and their rights. For example, they instructed a solicitor on behalf of one child in relation to their education. They have also challenged professionals about reducing family time and the absence of life-story work. Additionally, they offer solutions to professionals, supporting them to take appropriate action.

Leaders and managers are making efforts to improve the quality of care. For example, they recently started an independence activity with one child who is reluctant to accept that they will leave the home in the future. Some staff members have completed training in life-story work and others have completed enhanced qualifications in therapeutic practice.

The responsible individual is aware that recent incidents have impacted staff confidence and they are working with the team to rebuild this. For example, by being more present in the home and modelling good practice to staff, helping them to improve their skills.

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.

Requirement	Due date
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— 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)(f)). In particular, the responsible individual should ensure that they capture learning from incidents. This should be shared with the staff team for the purpose of improving practice.	2 May 2024

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 Child Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Kirsty Sheppard

Registered manager: Vacant

Inspector:

Tara Webb, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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