

1235576

Registered provider: South West Childcare Services

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider and registered to provide care for up to two children who may have social and emotional difficulties or a learning disability. At the time of this assurance inspection, there were two children living in the home.

There is a suitably qualified manager in post.

Inspection date: 17 February 2025

Date of last inspection: 21 August 2024

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has 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.

Since the last inspection, a new child has moved into the home. Before they moved in, their needs were considered alongside the needs of the current child and the skills of the staff team. Staff take time to understand the children's individual needs and supported them to build positive relationships with one another.

The children say that they like living at the home and that they feel safe. Staff respond calmly to children's distress and use the trusting relationships they have to explore the children's feelings and emotions. There are very few incidents and restraint is not used.

Children's support plans are up to date and there has been a renewed focus by managers on improving the standard of information and guidance for staff on how best to support children. Since the previous inspection, systems for management oversight have been reviewed and strengthened and more recent records have shown some improvement in this area.

Allegations and complaints are responded to in a timely manner and thoroughly investigated. Leaders and managers have taken action to address poor practice and this has had a positive impact on the staff team and its ability to support the children.

Staff say that morale is good and speak positively about the support of leaders and managers. Supervision and team meetings take place regularly, but there is a lack of critical challenge to accurately understand the home's performance and areas for further development.

Leaders and managers ensure that the wider network is involved in the planning for the children. There are some good examples of challenge when there are gaps in services, not enough is currently done to address the shortfalls in education for the children.

Staff support children to take age-appropriate risks and have unsupervised time away from the home. However, staff have not always been curious enough about children's whereabouts or activities to ensure that they are safe in the community. More action needs to be taken by leaders and managers to ensure that staff are confident in their contextual safeguarding knowledge.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/08/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/11/2023	Full	Good
07/02/2023	Full	Good
18/11/2021	Full	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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; that the homes day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to effectively protect each child from harm; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(v)(vii)(b)(e)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that safeguarding procedures are fully understood and followed by staff. This requirement was made at the previous inspection and is restated.	31 March 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1235576

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: South West Childcare Services

Registered provider address: Maybrook House, Third Floor, Queensway,
Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4AH

Responsible individual: Lucy King

Registered manager: Louis Carroll

Inspector

Stacey Pellow, Social Care Inspector

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