

2508451

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and run by the local authority. The home's statement of purpose states that the setting is designed to improve children's life chances and outcomes by enabling them to rebuild relationships with their families and/or to achieve a stable living situation.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 22 July 2020.

Inspection date: 6 October 2022

Date of last inspection: 29 June 2022

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.

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 care of children

One child has recently moved into the home. The registered manager completed a good assessment of the child's needs, including considering their risks and vulnerabilities in relation to the children already living in the home.

The staff listen to the children about what is important to them, including their wishes and feelings. Staff have supported one child to buy a new outfit for a special occasion and another child to buy tickets to a nationally recognised horse event.

One child has recently started a new school suited to their needs and vulnerabilities. The child told the inspector, 'I love my new school.' Another child attends school on a full-time basis and continues to make educational progress. For the one child not in school, managers are advocating for them to secure the right educational placement.

The staff ensure that they request children's education, health and care plans. When children's plans are not promptly provided, staff are good at escalating their concerns over the delay.

The safety of children

Staff talk to the children about how to stay safe and provide them with the necessary tools to help them to make safe decisions. One child has recently completed an accredited qualification in online safety.

There has been a decrease in one child's behaviour both in the home and in the community. Staff have worked particularly hard with the local police to ensure that the child has the wraparound care they need to stay safe.

Children have individualised behaviour management plans that capture their preferred support and intervention strategies. This helps the children to feel in control of situations when they are at their most angry and/or upset.

The staff report safeguarding concerns quickly and follow guidance. The registered manager keeps good audit trails of any contact with safeguarding professionals and the subsequent outcomes.

The registered manager has suitably vetted agency staff working in the home. Staff carry out regular inductions for agency staff, inviting them to handovers and asking

them to read the relevant plans for the children. Consequently, children are supported by staff who understand their needs, risks and vulnerabilities.

The staff regularly review and update children's risk assessments. These assessments include clear strategies to help to reduce identified risks. Although the children's risk assessments and missing-from-care plans are regularly reviewed, managers have failed to review the home's location risk assessment.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The registered manager is suitably qualified. She has recently been on extended annual leave and during this period the deputy manager has been in charge.

The registered manager had identified gaps in staff training in relation to the care of one child. Although the manager has now arranged for staff to receive this training, the delay has left some staff without the necessary skills and knowledge in how to meet the child's individual needs.

All staff are trained in the home's physical intervention technique and first aid.

Staff receive safeguarding training during their induction and have a further safeguarding webinar once this initial training is completed. However, there is no formal process for staff to refresh their safeguarding training. Senior leaders have identified this shortfall and are piloting a new residential learning and development scheme from October this year.

The registered manager keeps the home's statement of purpose under review. However, the staff appendix attached to this document is out of date. Managers working in the home are not included on the day-to-day duty rota. This makes it difficult for the staff, external professionals and the regulator to review which staff are working in the home and when.

The registered manager has met all the requirements from the last full inspection, apart from those relating to regulation 13.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/03/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
15/09/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/02/2020	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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, 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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure the staff have the training and skills to meet the needs of children, including regularly refreshed safeguarding training. The registered person must also keep up-to-date details of the experience and qualifications of staff as set out in Schedule 1. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	7 January 2023
The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)(c) (the protection of children standard). When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person. (Regulation 46 (1) (2))	7 January 2023

Recommendation

- Those with a leadership and/or management role should be visible and accessible to staff. Their working hours should be documented on the staff rota. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.7)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2508451

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Registered provider address: Hampshire Council, 3rd Floor, Elizabeth II Court
North, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG

Responsible individual: John Stacey

Registered manager: Nichola Meads

Inspector

Kelly Monniot, Social Care Inspector

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