

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. It provides care for up to four children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

There were four children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since July 2020.

Inspection date: 9 January 2024

Date of last inspection: 23 May 2023

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.

There has been an improvement in the quality of care provided to children, because of improvements to the staffing arrangements. Children have positive relationships with a stable core staff team.

Children have been helped to live together more harmoniously. This has been achieved by staff making good use of practical resources and by careful monitoring by managers. Consequently, children's relationships with each other have improved. One child said about living in the home, 'It is like a family.'

Staff ensure that children's wishes and feelings are listened to and acted on. Children's records demonstrate that staff provide effective support to children when things do not go to plan. Staff help children to consider the impact of their language and communication on other children.

Work has been carried out to improve the environment. Children have been involved in making changes, which gives them a sense of ownership and pride in their surroundings.

When safeguarding concerns about children arise, staff respond swiftly to ensure children's safety and well-being. Incidents are recorded thoroughly, and follow-up work to reduce the risk of a recurrence is carried out in a structured way.

Staff respond proactively when children need additional help and support. Physical interventions are used proportionately, and children benefit from emotional and practical support afterwards. The management team demonstrates curiosity about these incidents and encourages staff to reflect on their practice.

Managers have clear expectations regarding staff performance to ensure that children receive good-quality care. When concerns are raised about staff practice, managers take decisive action.

Senior leaders did not consult the registered manager before moving one child into the home. Changes to the group of children living in the home made the children quite unsettled and led to several incidents. The staff team has worked hard to stabilise the home, and this has had a positive impact following the difficult initial period.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/03/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
15/09/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children. The registered provider should ensure that the registered person is involved in all decisions to move children into the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2508451

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

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

Responsible individual: John Stacey

Registered manager: Nichola Meads

Inspector

Ashley Edwards, Social Care Inspector

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