

SC2508451

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Interim 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 is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. Young people and staff have relocated to a new property. This is a result of the local authority's revision of its residential care options across the county. This is the first interim inspection in the new location.

The home has been without a registered manager since 6 January 2020.

Inspection date: 14 February 2020

Date of last inspection: 15 August 2019

Judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged outstanding at the last full inspection.

At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

Staff document significant conversations with young people, but some of these records lack detail and are dated incorrectly. In one case, there was no explanation why a young person was asked if they wanted to call the police. Staff have not always taken the initiative to inform the social worker of significant disclosures and instead have given a young person the option to talk to their social worker themselves. This demonstrates a poor understanding of good safeguarding practice.

Staff notified a social worker of a serious safeguarding incident, yet this emphasised its possible criminality rather than the safeguarding issue. This left a young person at risk. The young person later provided further information that gave rise to further concerns. Staff did not ensure that this was passed onto the social worker immediately, leaving a young person unsupported and vulnerable over one weekend.

The manager did not identify the delay in staff reporting a significant disclosure. In addition, the actions taken by the placing social worker and other agencies were unknown to the managers. This demonstrates insufficient management oversight and professional curiosity to close off child protection enquiries. The manager did not notify Ofsted in accordance with regulation.

Some other safeguarding practices are good, such as the action taken in response to an allegation about a staff member. Managers take effective action, including liaising with the designated officer for safeguarding in the local authority and redeploying staff while the necessary investigations take place.

Managers have completed impact assessments and put into place suitable control measures before admitting young people into the home, some of whom have arrived in an emergency. Despite their best efforts, this has been an unsettled period for young people living in the home. Staff have dealt satisfactorily with incidents and there has not been any unnecessary police involvement. The manager has assessed other referrals to the home and concluded that they are not currently a good match. The manager is committed to bringing stability and calm to the home before other young people come to live there.

Young people who have been placed in the home for some time are making good progress. They are showing a maturity in their approach to relationships, and are looking for part-time jobs and developing their independent living skills. Staff support young people to focus on the key events in their life, such as the impending GCSEs.

Other young people who have lived in the home for a significant period have transitioned successfully into adult life. They stay in contact with staff and visit on key occasions, such as Christmas time.

The manager has ensured that the staff are trained in understanding and responding to self-harming behaviours, as required at the last inspection. She is working with senior managers in the local authority to discuss further timeframes for key training.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/08/2019	Full	Outstanding

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who– understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff– protect and promote each child's welfare. (Regulation 6(1)(a)(b), (2)(b)(ii))	31/03/2020
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– 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; and take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12(1), (2)(a)(iii)(v)(vi))	31/03/2020
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if– an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;	31/03/2020

a child protection enquiry involving a child– is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40(4)(b)(d)(i)(ii)(e))	
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Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: 2508451

Provision sub-type: Children's home

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

Responsible individual: John Stacey

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Keith Riley, social care inspector

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