

2571846

New Forest Care

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home's statement of purpose describes the service as one that will provide short-term placements for children, aged eight to 18, experiencing placement breakdowns, those with emerging complex behaviours, and those at risk from child sexual exploitation, gangs, criminality, at risk in the community or posing a risk to others. In line with their placement plans, children may spend some of their time living in the outreach house and activity centres.

The home registered with Ofsted in June 2020 for five children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

There has been no registered manager since September 2020.

Inspection date: 23 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This visit took place to assess the provider's progress in meeting the requirements made at the previous monitoring visit on 26 November 2020. This visit was undertaken remotely, in line with COVID-19 (coronavirus) restrictions.

Since the last inspection, many of the written documents have been revised in line with the social care common inspection framework. The children's pathway plans show well-thought-out planned time frames for children arriving at the home. Clear objectives are set for their journey through the assessment and activity elements of their time, and their move into the main house. As a result, the children experience well planned care.

Since the last inspection, changes have been made to the home. Now, each child has their own dedicated bedroom in the main house, regardless of them staying in other parts of the provision, such as the outreach house or an activity centre. Adaptions of the home are continuing and include office space and sleeping-in rooms for staff.

A new team leader has joined. This is having a positive impact on the staff who describe feeling as 'one team' and being 'well supported'. Handover and communication between the teams have been improved by a new system. The staff report that this has improved communication. The teams working more cohesively has resulted in greater consistency of care for the children.

The activity-based learning is now accredited with education awards. This enables the children to build education credits through their achievements of activity-based learning. An education plan, linked to care plan targets, sets out clear objectives and builds in reflections on learning being achieved or adaptations if the session is not met.

Staff training is largely on track. For some courses such as physical restraint, COVID-19 has caused delays. However, the two staff requiring this training have a date booked in. The manager has also made use of team meetings to deliver training specific to the needs of the children. The manager has a clear plan in place to achieve his level five qualification and receives monthly updates for staff who are working towards the level three diploma.

Location reviews have been reviewed for both premises. Consultation with relevant local stakeholders has taken place in order to provide a comprehensive assessment of both locations. Risks are clearly outlined, and strategies are in place to reduce identified risks. Fire drills have taken place in both locations. Children described the safety arrangements, having become familiar with them. As a result, the fire and safety arrangements have improved.

The manager is currently applying to be registered with Ofsted. He has reviewed the home's statement of purpose so that the staff are familiar with its revised contents. Staff are clear about how they deliver care in line with the objectives in their day-to-day work. A great deal of work has taken place since the last inspection to bring about the improvements highlighted in that report. All of the previous requirements have been met.

The manager and staff are working towards reducing the use of restrictive physical intervention. A reduction of the use of prone restraint is evident. However, on one occasion, during a lengthy incident, the manager failed to suitably review the duration of a prone restraint. This omission highlights that further improvement is still required, particularly in respect of using high-risk strategies.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
Not previously inspected		

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 registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (1)(b) (3)(a)(v)(vii)) This refers specifically to the staff use of de-escalation techniques and the manager's evaluation of the effectiveness of each intervention.	09 April 2021

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2571846

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: New Forest Care

Registered provider address: New Forest Care Ltd, West Shore House, West Street, Hythe, Southampton, Hampshire SO45 6AA

Responsible individual: David Carter

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sarah Olliver, Social Care Inspector

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