

2630728

Registered provider: Hopespring

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. It provides care for up to two children who may have emotional and social difficulties.

There has been no registered manager at the home since November 2023.

Inspection date: 4 January 2024

Date of last inspection: 23 August 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 identified no serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Since the full inspection, the registered manager has resigned their position and an interim manager has been appointed. There are suitable arrangements in place to make decisions for children and have oversight of their care.

Children's risk assessments are detailed and include known risks and vulnerabilities. Staff support children in a consistent manner, and the manager has oversight of incidents of concern. This ensures children receive well-planned responses from the adults who care for them.

The manager has implemented monitoring systems to oversee the children's files. As a result, care plans now accurately reflect the children's needs and how staff can meet those needs. This helps to ensure that children are supported in a consistent manner by all staff.

The home uses alarms to alert staff when children leave their bedrooms at night and uses door chimes during the day. The staff also routinely lock the door to the kitchen at night. The manager details the rationale for the use of bedroom alarms in children's risk assessments, but there is no rationale for locking doors in the home. In addition, there is no system to review and evaluate the use of these restrictive practices. This means that children may be subject to unnecessary intrusion into their privacy and restrictions to their movement around the home.

Children are moving on to new homes because of the provider's decision to close the home. Staff are working well with the children's social workers to ensure that these moves are smooth and that children are supported to adjust to these changes.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/12/2022	Full	Good
08/03/2022	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 registered person must ensure that— the privacy of children is appropriately protected; children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))	15 February 2024

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2630728

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hopespring

Registered provider address: 10 Sea View Road West, Sunderland SR2 9HA

Responsible individual: John Finlayson

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Joanne Wallis, social care inspector

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