

2649926

Registered provider: Beaufort Care Group Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for one child who may experience social and/or emotional difficulties. The home is operated by a private provider which has several other homes in the area.

There has been no registered manager in post since 24 April 2023. At the time of this inspection, the home was not operational. No children are living in the home.

Inspection date: 19 October 2023

Date of last inspection: 2 August 2023

Judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:

At the last full inspection, a compliance notice was issued under Regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard). This notice was reviewed at a monitoring visit on 20 September 2023 and deemed to be met.

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'.

Outcome 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.

Findings from the inspection

There have been no children living at the home since the child left on 9 September 2023. Senior leaders made the decision to close the home temporarily while investigations into staff practice were carried out and new staff, including a manager, were recruited.

A new manager was appointed but is no longer in post. Staff have been recruited but redeployed to work in other homes. The responsible individual shared their plans for the future of the home, including their intention not to admit children into the home at this stage. The longer-term plans are not yet formally confirmed.

In the period since the previous inspection and the monitoring visit, senior managers have investigated the practice of five members of staff. The quality of these investigations is inconsistent as they do not always evidence all actions carried out as part of the investigation. These shortfalls mean that decisions made are not consistently supported by clear evidence.

Senior leaders have carried out a root cause analysis to understand the reasons for the breakdown of the child's placement. This is a good-quality review and contains clear actions to prevent a reoccurrence of this situation. However, it is not possible to assess the effectiveness of these actions as there have been no children admitted to the home since. Senior leaders have not shared the learning from this review across the organisation, which impairs a wider learning opportunity.

As the home is not operating, it is not possible to carry out an effective assessment of the progress made to meet the requirements set at the previous inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/08/2023	Full	Inadequate
03/05/2022	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 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— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; and	30 November 2023

feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(i)(ii)(h)) In addition, the registered person should ensure that lessons learned following practice reviews are shared to promote learning and development.	
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which— is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect; and sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect. The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular— provide for records to be kept of an allegation of abuse or neglect, and the action taken in response; describe the measures which may be necessary to protect children following an allegation of abuse or neglect. (Regulation 34 (1)(a)(b) (2)(d)(e)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that investigations into staff practice are of a consistently good quality and include all the investigation actions and subsequent outcomes.	30 November 2023

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2649926

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Beaufort Care Group Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 2 Hollygrove Business Park, Verwood Road, Ringwood, Dorset BH24 2DB

Responsible individual: Amanda Goodenough

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Wendy Anderson, Social Care Inspector

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