

2666995

Registered provider: Assure Care Homes Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties. It is owned by a private organisation.

At the time of inspection one child was living in the home.

Inspection date: 12 December 2023

Date of last inspection: 15 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 did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Since the last full inspection, a new manager has been appointed at the home and they have applied to register with Ofsted. There is also a new interim responsible individual and experienced leaders are now in post. This has had a positive and significant impact for staff and the child living in the home. A review of aspirations and expectations for children and staff has been completed. Leaders acknowledge that this is a work in progress and there are still areas that need to improve. However, they are clear about the initial progress that has been made.

The child living in the home is settled and is making progress. They have good attendance and engagement in school and are well supported by staff. The child's health needs are well met and relevant plans are continually reviewed and updated when required. There is now sufficient staff to meet the needs of the child. Relationships between the child and staff are positive and nurturing.

Leaders place a significant focus on the way that children are consulted with, and how independence skills are planned for. This has resulted in a clear child-centred approach which includes plans to further enhance these skills. As a result, the child is supported to develop a variety of skills in relation to preparing for adulthood.

Leaders have revised staff supervision strategies and all staff have received regular supervision since the last inspection. Where there are concerns in terms of staff practice, these are quickly identified and addressed with staff to help them to improve their practice.

There has been improvement in how safeguarding concerns are managed. Actions are taken swiftly to share information or concerns with relevant safeguarding professionals. There is good oversight from leaders and the manager, with effective communication and follow-up with external safeguarding agencies when required. Staff understand the risks and needs of the child well.

Incidents and restraints have reduced since the last inspection. There is, in the whole, good oversight of incidents and restraints are responded to accordingly by managers. However, there is an inconsistency in children being spoken to following any restraints. This is a repeated requirement. All other requirements set at the last inspection have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/10/2022	Full	Good
12/04/2022	Full	Inadequate

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— within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	28 February 2024

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2666995

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Assure Care Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: Unit 4, Northbrook Industrial Estate, Hollybrook Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 6PB

Responsible individual: Christopher Newman

Registered manager: Vacant

Inspector

Mark Newington, Social Care Inspector

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