

# SC023651

Registered provider: Little Acorns London Beach Farm Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home that provides care for up to eight children who experience social, emotional and who (may) have special educational needs and/or disabilities. There were five children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since November 2022.

The provider operates an independent school located in the same grounds as the home. The inspector only inspected the social care provision on this site.

**Inspection date: 15 January 2025**

**Date of last inspection:** 10 April 2024

**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.

The inspector has 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.

A refurbishment of the home has improved the physical environment. Children's bedrooms are personalised and reflect their hobbies and interests.

Children make good progress because they engage in the reward system that is adapted for each child's individual needs. Staff make sure that children's goals are broken down into manageable steps. Children's achievements include trying new hobbies, attending clubs and making friends with children from outside the home. One parent told the inspector that their child is 'a different person' and that the work that has been done with them has 'changed them for good'.

All children are in full-time education and their attendance is good. Staff work closely with school staff, and this results in a shared understanding about children's current needs and the progress they are making.

Staff understand and implement children's behaviour support plans. When children are struggling to manage their emotions, staff make successful use of strategies that help them to feel more settled. Because of the positive relationships enjoyed between children and staff, there has been a reduction in the frequency of incidents that require physical restraint.

A fire risk assessment has been completed by the Fire and Rescue Service, and this identified several actions that managers need to take to reduce the risk of a fire. There has been a delay in some of the actions being addressed, and some work has not yet been completed. This undermines the fire safety of the home.

Children's bedroom doors have alarms fitted to ensure children's safety and well-being during the night. However, the alarms are not always deactivated during the day. The rationale for this is unclear, and the use of the alarms has the potential to have a negative impact on children's privacy.

A family-time liaison officer has been appointed. They ensure that children have opportunities to spend time with the people who are important to them. The family-time liaison officer and the registered manager advocate on behalf of children so that arrangements for family time are in children's best interests and are positive experiences for children and their families.

The registered manager is passionate about improving outcomes for children. They make effective use of staff supervision and professional development to ensure that staff understand how to meet children's needs in line with their plans.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 10/04/2024      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 23/08/2023      | Full            | Good                            |
| 05/10/2022      | Full            | Good                            |
| 05/05/2021      | 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         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <p>The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if—</p> <p>the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children;</p> <p>the monitoring or surveillance is no more intrusive than necessary, having regard to the child's need for privacy.<br/>(Regulation 24 (1)(a)(d))</p>                                      | 28 February 2025 |
| <p>If the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005(1) applies to the home—</p> <p>the registered person must ensure that the requirements of that Order and any regulations made under it, except for article 23 (duties of employees), are complied with in respect of the home.<br/>(Regulation 25 (2)(b))</p> <p>Specifically, the registered person should ensure that all recommendations in the fire risk assessment have been met.</p> | 10 March 2025    |

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC023651

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Little Acorns London Beach Farm Limited

**Registered provider address:** B3 Kingfisher House, Team Valley, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 0JQ

**Responsible individual:** Charlotte Darby

**Registered manager:** Natasha Scotford

## Inspector

Sonata Brisley, Social Care Inspector

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