

SC023739

Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately operated and provides care for up to three children. In line with the home's statement of purpose, it is currently being used exclusively for girls with a history of difficult attachments and require intensive support. There was one child living in the home at the time of this inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in February 2023 and is not yet suitably qualified.

Inspection date: 19 July 2023

This monitoring visit

There is currently a serious safeguarding allegation under review by the police. Concerns about staff practice were known and escalated by the registered manager to senior leaders. Despite this, there were no formal risk or performance management plans put into place. This was raised at the last inspection and remains under investigation.

Senior leaders have not given a satisfactory response to a complaint that was raised to Ofsted. However, they have reflected on some incidents. This has led to a positive change in practice, development for staff around safeguarding children, and ensuring that staff have the skills needed to care for children.

There have been some changes within the staffing structure and recruitment is ongoing. Managers and leaders have taken action to provide additional staffing for a child who needs this at present.

Procedures in place for staff to contact an on-call manager have been reviewed with staff to ensure that they are confident about when to seek advice and guidance.

Concerns for children's safety have been escalated by managers to the local authority. Arrangements have been made for multi-professionals meetings, which have taken place with senior leaders in attendance.

There are shortfalls in records made following children being restrained by staff; some records are incomplete and many lack the views of children. This is a missed opportunity for children to reflect on this difficult time, and for this practice to have appropriate management oversight.

There is inconsistent advice given to staff by on call managers when children go missing from home. This advice does not always follow children's risk plans. Plans are not always reviewed to ensure that they reflect agreed decisions for children in consultation with their social workers.

The requirements from the previous inspection are restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/06/2023	Full	Inadequate
28/02/2023	Full	Good
16/03/2022	Full	Outstanding
27/09/2018	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, 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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies and— that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b))	10 August 2023

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— 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(c)(d)(e))	10 August 2023
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority; that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(ii)(c))	10 August 2023
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety.	10 August 2023

The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children’s home; or if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual is of integrity and good character; the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform; and the individual is mentally and physically fit for the purposes of the work that the individual is to perform. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(a)(b)(c))	
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— the name of the child; details of the child’s behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure (“the user”), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and	10 August 2023

a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;

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)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))

In particular, the registered person must ensure that a record is made following incidents of a child being restrained, and ensure that children are spoken to following any incident of being restrained and a record of this is made.

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: SC023739

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited, 17 Leigh Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EU

Responsible individual: Leslie Davenport

Registered manager: Chloe Sinclair

Inspector

Sara Stoker, Social Care Inspector

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