

SC023746

Registered provider: Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and run by a private organisation. It provides care and accommodation for up to three children with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties. One child was living in the home at the time of the inspection.

There has been no registered manager in post since April 2023.

Inspection date: 30 August 2023

This monitoring visit

The home was judged as inadequate at its full inspection that was completed on 20 July 2023. Following the visit, the provider was issued with a notice restricting accommodation of the home.

This visit was carried out to monitor the registered provider's progress against the requirements set after the last full inspection and to ensure that the notice restricting accommodation was being adhered to.

The notice restricting accommodation has been complied with, as no further children have been admitted to the home since it was issued.

There has been a proactive and positive response from leaders and managers to the requirements made at the full inspection. Some requirements and recommendations have not yet been met, and there is work underway to address this. As a result, the notice restricting accommodation remains in place following this monitoring visit.

Some staff have not had the required training to fulfil their role in meeting the needs of the child currently living at the home. For instance, not all staff have completed safeguarding or physical intervention training. Despite this, there have been some instances where untrained staff have taken part in physical restraints of the child. In addition, if a restraint has been used, the child does not always have a debrief in the required timescales by an independent person. This is a missed opportunity to find

out how the child is feeling and if anything could be done differently.

All staff have now had medication handling and administration training. Staffing levels have improved but the manager continues to work on shift when there are not enough staff. The supervision of staff, including that of the manager, has improved in quality and is taking place at regular intervals.

Some staff are relatively new in post and are working on building trusting relationships with the child living at the home. Given that these staff members are new, their ability to build trusting and nurturing relationships with the child has been limited. Furthermore, staff have not had the opportunity to understand, through training, the impact of trauma and difficult early childhood experiences on children's behaviour and development.

The child living at the home has enjoyed a summer full of activities and is well prepared for going back to school. There has been a high level of communication between the staff at the school and the staff from the home about the child's return to school. This will help the child to have a positive start to the new school year.

Staff have responded appropriately when the child has gone missing from home. Since the full inspection, the number of times the child has gone missing from home has reduced. Staff now manage incidents in a proactive and effective way and are nurturing and supportive in their approach to the child. There is good joint working with other agencies and good information-sharing to help make informed decisions about the child's care. There is ongoing work by staff to prepare the child to move on from the home.

The manager has made good progress in updating the plans and assessments for the child. Plans and assessments are now current and accurate. They support the staff in their care of the child. Assessments now contain details about the child's family culture and religion. This supports the staff in helping the child's own understanding of their past and heritage.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/07/2023	Full	Inadequate
27/03/2023	Full	Good
02/06/2021	Full	Outstanding
10/12/2019	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 with 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— 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)(c)(d)(e))	30 October 2023
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— strive to gain each child's respect and trust; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have	30 October 2023

the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(viii)(ix))	
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 children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home’s statement of purpose; that arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; 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. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii))	30 October 2023
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy (“the behaviour management policy”) which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children’s home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— 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 (1)(a)(b) (3)(c))	30 October 2023

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: SC023746

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited

Registered provider address: 17 Leigh Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EU

Responsible individual: Leslie Davenport

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Jules Harrild, Social Care Inspector

Peter Jackson, Social Care Compliance Inspector

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