

SC031698

Registered provider: East Sussex County Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority children's home. The home can provide care for up to eight children with learning and physical disabilities.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since June 2017 and is suitably qualified.

There were six children living in the home at the time of the inspection. Since the last inspection, two children have moved on from the home.

Inspection date: 9 January 2024

Date of last inspection: 9 May 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, 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.

There have been significant changes in the home since the last inspection. One of the children has moved on after a successful transition into an adult service. Good communication between all relevant professionals ensured that the child was well supported and that the move was a success.

Due to significant flood damage in a sister home, some children moved in. Prior to this happening, staff completed detailed social stories for all the children moving in, as well as the child living there. This ensured that everyone was as well prepared as possible.

Children have trusting and secure relationships with staff. Experienced and consistent staff demonstrate a good knowledge of children and their individual needs. The manager has ensured that all guidance for staff has been updated to acknowledge changes that have occurred.

Managers take robust action in response to allegations, ensuring that external safeguarding professionals are communicated with immediately.

The manager now ensures that Ofsted is kept up to date as required by regulation. This is a significant change since the last inspection.

Staff work diligently to ensure that children's views are considered. There are regular children's meetings and one-to-one sessions, where staff use picture symbols to help children to better understand and share their views. This allows children to have a say about what they want. There are also regular visits to the home by an advocate.

The requirements and recommendations set at the previous inspection have all been met. No requirements or recommendations were set at this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
24/01/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/10/2022	Full	Inadequate
16/09/2021	Full	Good

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC031698

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: East Sussex County Council

Registered provider address: East Sussex County Council, County Hall St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE

Responsible individual: Kathy Marriott

Registered manager: Shirin White

Inspector

Mark Newington, Social Care Inspector

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