

SC031698

Registered provider: East Sussex County Council

Monitoring visit

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 are two children currently living in the home. Since the last inspection, no children have moved into or out of the home.

Inspection date: 24 November 2022

This monitoring visit

The environment for children has improved and has the beginnings of being a homely, enriching place for children to live. Children are able to express their views on how they want their environment to look, such as choosing the new paint colours for the walls.

The registered manager has met with other professionals to explore different furniture options for one child, who requires robust items. They have trialled new furniture and this has now been ordered. Changes have been made to this child's bathroom so that they can resume their enjoyment of water play.

The quality of care for children has improved since the last inspection. This has improved children's lived experiences. For example, there has been a rigorous multi-agency approach to enabling one of the children to access community places. This has been thoroughly risk assessed and is in its early stages. Another child has been able to visit a shop and a restaurant. Consequently, children are beginning to engage in normal childhood experiences outside of the home.

Staff have received bespoke training on how to keep one of the children safe during his times of difficulty. This training has also considered the impact of keeping the staff safe while maintaining the safety of the child. Staff were seen to be attentive and encouraging towards the children and demonstrated that they understood their individual needs, support plans and care routines.

Children's care planning has been reviewed. This has been done in consultation with the local authority and families, where appropriate, alongside other professionals, such as health teams and education support staff.

Staff are mindful of changes in the children's health and well-being, and they seek appropriate medical advice from the relevant health agencies.

The registered manager is working with the virtual school and the children's social workers to look at appropriate community venues where education and learning can take place. Bespoke education packages are being arranged to support meaningful educational opportunities. This includes art and music therapy. New tutors have been identified for the children and reviews for these plans have taken place.

The social worker and practice manager for the children feel that there are positive and open working relationships with the registered manager and that the support team has a consistent approach to caring for the children.

The senior leadership team has worked closely with the children's local authority and has decided to confirm the living arrangements for the children rather than continue with a temporary arrangement. The registered provider intends to apply to vary the home's registration accordingly and make the necessary changes to the statement of purpose for the home. This will give the children stability.

The arrangements for one child whose liberty has to be restricted have been discussed and an application has been made to formalise this.

A referral to the necessary statutory agency has been made in regard to a staff member's dismissal.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/10/2022	Full	Inadequate
16/09/2021	Full	Good
16/01/2020	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
02/10/2019	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, 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 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— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)) This requirement is carried over to allow sufficient time to implement the changes.	6 January 2023
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's 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— 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) (2)(a)(b)(ii)(iii))	6 January 2023

This requirement is carried over to allow sufficient time to implement the changes.	
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Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that all staff have their performance and fitness to carry out their role formally appraised at least once annually. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.5)

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: 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

Inspectors

Sara Stoker, Social Care Inspector

Mike Simmonds, Social Care Inspector

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