

SC033174

Hampshire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a local authority. It is registered to provide care for up to four children aged between 10 and 17. The maximum age on admission is 16.

The provider states that the home offers residential care with therapeutic emphasis and multi-agency involvement to help children and young people to recover from experiences that have left them vulnerable.

The home has been without a registered manager since March 2021.

Inspection date: 14 December 2022

This monitoring visit

At a monitoring visit on 20 October 2022, Ofsted reissued a compliance notice under regulation 12 (the protection of children standard). Following that visit, Ofsted lifted the notice restricting accommodation on 8 November 2022.

This visit took place to assess the progress the provider has made to meet the steps of the compliance notice.

Following a relatively settled period, with a reduction of serious incidents, an emergency placement of an additional child significantly impacted on all the children. This led to an increase of significant incidents being reported. In addition, further shortfalls were identified in respect of the assessment and management of risk.

Staff failed to fulfil their responsibilities to follow a child's risk management plans during a period when children were missing from the home. Despite the increase in management direction and oversight, staff did not execute their responsibilities to ensure that children were fully safeguarded.

Inspectors viewed all areas of the home and found unsafe items and evidence of over-the-counter medication in one child's bedroom.

Risk assessments for keeping children safe have improved; however, some information has not been updated for one child. There is a lack of professional curiosity when carrying out room searches. As a result, unsafe items have not been identified and removed by staff, which places children at continued risk of harm.

Staff are not ensuring that boundaries are in place to safeguard children. For example, one child smokes cannabis in the home. There is little challenge or consistent messages from staff to enable a change in this behaviour.

There are some examples of staff continuing to engage children in meaningful discussions. These conversations help children to understand the consequences of their behaviour and unsafe decision-making on themselves and others.

Managers continue to have regular scrutiny of serious incidents. There is senior management oversight of how the home is managed day to day. Staff team meetings reflect on learning and how to implement this in practice. However, the management of risk and actions of staff do not safeguard children effectively.

At a case review following this visit, it was confirmed that a notice restricting accommodation would be issued. Not all aspects of the compliance notice issued under regulation 12 have been met. Therefore, a further notice has been issued.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/08/2022	Full	Good
26/04/2022	Full	Inadequate
26/04/2021	Full	Good
30/10/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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 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 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; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v))	22 January 2023

*This requirement is subject to a compliance notice.

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: SC033174

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Registered provider address: Hampshire Council, 3rd Floor, Elizabeth II Court North, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG

Responsible individual: John Stacey

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Jill Sephton-Wright, Social Care Inspector
Tony Waite, Social Care Inspector

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