

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. One child was living in the home at the time of the visit.

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

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

Inspection date: 23 January 2023

This monitoring visit

Care planning for the child has been agreed, which gives staff the direction and assurance to implement appropriate behaviour management strategies. The atmosphere in the home is now calm and organised. Improved cohesive working relationships between staff means that they present as more confident.

Staff, including agency workers, understand and implement risk management measures safely. Risk assessments are regularly reviewed and updated by managers and senior team members. These are shared with all staff electronically and directly at the start of each shift. As a result, roles and responsibilities are clear for staff and carried out more effectively.

Staff and managers adhere to the strategies in place to reduce risks. Management oversight has improved and staff accountability for their roles has increased. Staff rotate their supervision of the child to provide better support and to prevent incidents from escalating.

The learning from incidents is shared throughout the staff team. The increased presence of managers and decisive care planning have reenergised staff's professional curiosity and confidence. As a result, more effective strategies have been implemented to meet the changing needs of the child.

Despite the increased oversight by managers, the provider has failed to notify the regulator of one serious incident. This limits the ability of the regulator to fulfil its function. Other incidents have been reported as required and recording has improved.

Staff and managers are proactive in working with other agencies. Good communication by staff has supported the child to engage with other agencies.

The inspector viewed all areas of the home, including bedrooms, and found that the home is being kept in a better state and cleanliness has significantly improved.

The poor performance of some staff identified at previous inspections has been appropriately managed. On one occasion, an agency member of staff had not followed the risk assessment. This was dealt with efficiently and concluded quickly by senior managers.

The local authority has yet to appoint a manager, which remains a significant concern.

At a case review following this visit, it was confirmed that the compliance notice issued under regulation 12 has been met. The notice restricting accommodation will remain in place to allow leaders and managers further time to embed the improving care practice.

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 registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child— is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. A notification made under this regulation— must include details of— the matter; the other persons, bodies or organisations (if any) who or which have been notified; and any actions taken by the registered person as a result of the matter; must be made or confirmed in writing. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e) (5)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(b))	31 March 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: SC033174

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

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

Responsible individual: John Stacey

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Jill Sephton-Wright, Social Care Inspector

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