

SC037910

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 provides care for up to three children. Its aim is to help children to recover from experiences that have caused them to be vulnerable and disrupted their primary relationships.

The registered manager position has been vacant since June 2021.

Inspection date: 4 January 2023

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out to monitor the registered provider's progress following the full inspection on 21 November 2022. Ofsted served a restriction of accommodation notice. No children have moved in to the home during this time.

Staff and managers have made a conscious effort to improve the presentation of the home. New furniture, window frames and decor have given the home a more welcoming and less institutionalised feel. Children were consulted and said that they had chosen some canvas paintings.

Swift action has been taken to address the instability and disharmony within the staff team. The staff and child say that they can see an improvement in working relationships at the home. There is an increase in the number of agency staff at the home. However, this is to provide extra capacity to enable permanent staff to complete the necessary training that was identified at the last inspection.

The successful review of risk assessments by the acting manager and responsible individual has produced a more concise and reduced version. The accountability and responsibility will lay solely with the manager to amend these. Updates will be shared with the whole staff team. As a result of this work, the leadership team has a thorough oversight of risk management and planning.

When children have gone missing from the home, risk assessments have been followed and all relevant professionals have been informed. A coordinated response during one missing-from-home episode resulted in a child being located and supported to return home. For another child, missing-from-home episodes and incidents of physical aggression have reduced.

All staff have received practice-related supervision. Observation of staff practice by the leadership team has been introduced and, so far, welcomed with positive outcomes. For example, new members of staff being inducted by permanent staff has been observed by the manager.

The responsible individual has provided a good level of support, mentoring and guidance to the current acting manager. Monitoring is now effective, and the usefulness of auditing has improved. The leadership team has thorough oversight, including electronically, to ensure that all tasks and actions are completed and recorded appropriately. This has increased the positive day-to-day experiences for staff and children in the home.

Some requirements and a recommendation were outside the scope of this visit. Therefore, these are restated and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/11/2022	Full	Inadequate
30/08/2022	Full	Inadequate
31/03/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
06/07/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be 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 registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children's home if— there is no registered manager in respect of the home. (Regulation 27 (1)(a)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 January 2023
A person may only manage a children's home if— the person is of integrity and good character; having regard to the size of the home, its statement of purpose, and the number and needs (including any needs arising from any disability) of the children— the person has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills to manage the home effectively and lead the care of children. (Regulation 28 (1)(a)(b)(i)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 January 2023
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 January 2023
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—	31 January 2023

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 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. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(e)(d)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (2)(b)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 March 2023

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children's homes are nurturing and supportive environments that meet the needs of their children. They should be homely, domestic environments. Homes should seek, as far as possible, to maintain a domestic rather than 'institutional' impression. (Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards; page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: SC037910

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

Inspector

Jill Sephton-Wright, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023