

SC044880

Registered provider: Brighton and Hove City Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides short breaks and longer-term care for children aged between 8 and 18 who have severe or moderate levels of learning disabilities.

At the time of the inspection, 3 children were staying at the home for short breaks. Two children and one young adult live long term in accommodation separate from that used for short breaks.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since June 2013.

Inspection date: 10 December 2025

Date of last inspection: 21 July 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has 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.

Children are making good progress because staff give them support that meets their individual needs. One child who displays self-injurious behaviour is now having fewer incidents and is more settled when they stay at the home. Another child who recently moved in is also showing improved behaviours, and this has been commented on by their parents. Because of this positive support, children feel happier and enjoy their time at the home.

Staff and managers work regularly with external professionals to make sure that children's needs are met. For example, managers have asked specialist behaviour services for advice on how best to support a child who recently moved into the home. This joint working means that children are able to receive clear, coordinated support that matches their needs.

Children's views are now listened to and acted on. Staff communicate with children in ways that suit their individual needs, ensuring that the children's voices are heard. Communication cards, symbols and observations are used to understand how children are feeling and what they want. For children who access short breaks, staff gather feedback at the end of each stay and ask what they would like to do during their next visit. A 'you asked, we did' approach is in place, so that children can see how their views have influenced decisions. Consequently, children feel valued, understood and able to express their wishes.

Staff and managers have improved the way in which incidents are managed and recorded. Responses are now timely and proportionate. Records are clear, detailed and reflective. Managers maintain oversight of incidents and identify actions that support staff and strengthen practice.

Staff communicate regularly with parents and keep them informed about their child's progress. Managers ensure that transition plans are in place for children who are moving on. Staff work in partnership with parents and relevant professionals to support children to move successfully to their next stage.

Allegations against staff are taken seriously and are managed appropriately. Managers report concerns to the local authority designated officer and follow the advice given. Investigations are completed in a timely way and lead to clear outcomes. However, a recent incident highlights some weaknesses in staff practice, particularly in their understanding and management of risk when children are taken out into the community.

Since the last inspection, a child has moved into the flat that was previously vacant and has been refurbished. Although managers have taken action to ensure that the

flat is safe, it is not yet homely and remains isolating and restrictive in terms of what the child can access. As a result, the environment does not support the child's wellbeing or provide a positive and nurturing place to live.

Managers have not ensured that appropriate specialist assessments are in place for restrictive measures that are used with children. For example, staff use a harness for a child when out in the community without an up-to-date assessment. As a result, it is unclear whether this measure is safe or appropriate for the child.

The registered manager of the home remains absent. An interim manager is in post and is taking steps to register with Ofsted. Two deputy managers have been recruited to strengthen oversight and practice in the home. In addition, further staff have been appointed. As a result, staff report feeling better supported and able to meet children's needs more effectively.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/07/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/04/2025	Full	Inadequate
16/04/2024	Full	Good
16/05/2023	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, The 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; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff consistently follow children's risk assessments and understand their roles and responsibilities in managing risk, in line with the organisation's policy.	30 March 2026
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(ii)(e))	30 March 2026

In particular, the registered manager must ensure that the home is able to sufficiently meet each child's needs before the child moves in.	
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to secure the input and services required to meet each child's needs. (Regulation 5 (b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that any use of harnesses are appropriately assessed and reviewed to ensure that they remain safe and appropriate to use.	30 March 2026

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC044880

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Brighton and Hove City Council

Registered provider address: Brighton & Hove City Council, Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 3BQ

Responsible individual: Lorraine Hughes

Registered manager: Karen Rusbridge

Inspector

Chido Mangava, Social Care Inspector

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