

SC044880

Registered provider: Brighton & 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 long-term care for children aged between eight and 18 years. According to the home's statement of purpose, the children have severe or moderate levels of learning disabilities, as defined in their education, health and care plans.

The home has two managers, who share the registered manager role. They have been registered with Ofsted since 2013 and 2015 respectively.

Inspection date: 17 November 2023

Date of last inspection: 16 May 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector evaluated:

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

Inspectors have 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'.

Outcome 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.

Findings from the inspection

Children receive consistent care from a stable group of staff, which helps children to build and maintain positive relationships with them. Staffing levels are high and staff have a clear understanding of children's individual strengths and vulnerabilities.

One child has made particularly good progress in relation to their emotional well-being. As a result of care from staff who are deeply committed to improving the child's outcomes, the child has managed to attend health appointments and spend increasing amounts of time accessing the community.

Managers work closely with other agencies, including health and education professionals and commissioners. The managers and staff advocate strongly on behalf of children to ensure that they are accessing the resources and support that they need.

The environment is well maintained to ensure that it is as comfortable and homely as possible. Managers are sensitive to children's needs and carefully plan maintenance and repairs accordingly.

Written plans are comprehensive and clearly describe how to care for children and keep them safe. Risk assessments are updated when children's needs change and, as a result, staff have up-to-date knowledge of the best strategies to help children who are struggling.

Short breaks are being offered to increasing numbers of families. Staff work closely with children's parents to ensure that children's introductions to the service are sensitively planned at a pace that children can manage.

Some regulation 44 reports have not been received or received late. This can hinder the regulator's ability to monitor what is occurring within the home for children, and actions taken by the managers to address any shortfalls.

When children sustain injuries, nurturing staff ensure that appropriate treatment is provided. However, good practice in this area is undermined by the incident records, which are not always as clear and thorough as they could be.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/05/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/06/2021	Full	Good
04/02/2020	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4).
- The registered person should ensure that the individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as an independent person makes a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the home's care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC044880

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Brighton & Hove City Council

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

Responsible individual: Peter Houlders

Registered managers: Karen Rusbridge and Victoria Witham

Inspector

Jane Balfe, Social Care Inspector

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