

SC044880

Registered provider: Brighton and Hove City Council

Monitoring visit

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 eight and 18. According to its statement of purpose, the children have severe or moderate levels of learning disabilities, as defined in their education, health and care plans.

At the time of the inspection, one child was staying at the home for short breaks. One young person and one adult live long term in accommodation separate to that used for short breaks.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since June 2013.

Inspection date: 19 May 2025

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 8 April 2025. Subsequently, a compliance notice was issued in relation to the poor state of the accommodation for a young adult living in one of the flats and matters not addressed in relation to fire safety. This monitoring inspection was undertaken to look at the progress made in response to the compliance notice and the requirements made at the last inspection.

Leaders and managers have met two of the seven requirements made at the last inspection. Action has been taken to address the shortfalls outlined in the compliance notice.

At the last inspection, the living conditions for one young adult that lived in a separate accommodation were unsafe. Leaders made some improvements to the flat and the young adult has since moved on to suitable accommodation for their age. The accommodation is currently vacant, and leaders and managers have plans in place to refurbish the flat to be safe and suitable accommodation.

Management arrangements have improved. An additional manager is now in post. However, the registered manager remains off work. Leaders are taking steps to ensure that the interim manager applies to register with Ofsted.

Staff shared that managers and leaders are now present and available to support them. Staff are feeling listened to and say managers act when concerns are raised. Interim managers meet weekly with senior staff members to discuss and address any team concerns. As a result, staff morale is improving and there is an improved confidence in leaders and managers.

Since the last inspection, staffing arrangements have improved. Managers plan rotas weekly with senior staff members to ensure there is sufficient staff in place to meet the needs of the children using the service. When agency staff are used, they are staff that come to the home regularly and know the children well. Leaders and managers have recruited additional staff, subject to employment checks, and continue to advertise for the remaining posts to ensure consistency of support and care offered to children.

Leaders and managers have made some improvements to the recording of safeguarding investigations. These are now recorded electronically, where all managers can access information to ensure transparency and consistency in practice between managers. Leaders shared that the plan going forward is for all handwritten records to be recorded electronically.

Staff were attuned to the children's needs, and children were seen to be happy and enjoying spending time with staff.

Since the last inspection, risk assessments for children are being updated in line with the changing needs of children and following any incidents.

Supervision for interim managers is taking place regularly. The responsible individual has been providing additional supervisions to the interim managers to provide additional support as they settle into their new roles.

Since the last inspection, staff supervisions have not occurred in line with the organisation's policy. Interim managers had planned to carry out initial supervisions following the inspection, but this was unsuccessful. Sessions were not scheduled in collaboration with staff, which affected staff's ability to attend.

Management oversight remains an area of improvement. Incidents recorded for children lack oversight from managers to ensure that staff practice is safe and provide guidance and support when needed. Consequently, this could leave safeguarding concerns unaddressed.

Children's views and wishes are not being sought regularly on decisions about the home and following incidents. Leaders and managers acknowledge that this

continues to be an area of improvement. They have a plan in place to address this. However, this is yet to be implemented.

The review of the quality of care remains an area of improvement. The reports of these reviews have been completed and shared with Ofsted, but lacked detail. They did not identify any actions for the home to develop the service and did not cover key areas that are relevant to the care of children. Leaders acknowledge this, so have made changes on how the review is completed in future, to ensure that key relevant areas are reflected in the report.

Since the last inspection, the statement of purpose was updated and shared with Ofsted to reflect management changes, children living at the home and staff working at the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/04/2025	Full	Inadequate
16/04/2024	Full	Good
16/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/05/2022	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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard 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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; 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; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(e))	20 May 2025

The leadership and management standard In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home’s statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; and feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (2)(a)(b)(f)(g)(i)(ii)(h)) In particular, ensure that there is sufficient management capacity to provide oversight of the day-to-day care and safeguarding practice.	6 October 2025
Employment of staff Leadership and management, supervisions and appraisal The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)(c))	2 June 2025

In particular, ensure that staff and managers receive regular supervision and annual appraisals.	
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care. (Regulation 7 (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))	30 May 2025
Review of quality of care The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.	6 May 2025

After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report").

The registered person must—

supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed; and

make a copy of the quality of care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home.

The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff.

(Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))

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: 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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