

SC061795

Registered provider: Southern Adolescent Care Services Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care for up to six children with social and emotional difficulties.

There is a manager in day-to-day charge of the home. However, the manager is not registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 3 January 2023

Date of last inspection: 14 June 2022

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.

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'.

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.

The care of children

This home was judged as requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection in June 2022.

The manager has addressed all the requirements and recommendations raised at the last full inspection. As a result, there has been an improvement in the care given to children.

Good-quality matching processes have been implemented and are effectively used before children move into this home. Consequently, children settle and build positive relationships from the outset.

The manager and staff share a good relationship with parents and professionals. Effective communication and good multi-agency working ensures that decisions are made in the best interests of the children. Reunifications back to family homes are well planned, ensuring that children and parents participate in all of the decisions made. This has resulted in one child's positive move back to her family.

Staff acknowledge the importance of capturing the child's voice. They use child-focused approaches creatively in order to help children to express their views and wishes. As a result, children feel listened to.

The safety of children

Leaders and managers now have oversight of children's risk assessments. These are regularly updated and give staff guidance on keeping children safe. Managers engage in reflective discussions with staff and address any emerging practice issues. This ensures children's safety.

Children rarely go missing from care. When they do, staff work alongside their parents and other agencies to ensure that they are located and encouraged to return home safely.

Staff maintain clear boundaries when supporting children to manage their feelings and emotions. Well-documented behavioural plans are in place. These guide staff effectively about how to support children when they struggle with their feelings and emotions. There has been a reduction in restraints, and children positively seek staff support when they become upset.

Leaders and managers ensure that any concerns are addressed and investigated and that any conclusions are shared with all relevant agencies, including Ofsted. This promotes effective external evaluation and regulatory oversight of the safety and care provided to children.

The home is well maintained and decorated in a child-centred manner. However, staff are not ensuring that children's bedrooms are kept clean and tidy. Items are left scattered on the bedroom floor and one ensuite toilet is not kept clean or well maintained, causing regular blockages. This compromises children's health and safety.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

Senior leaders, managers and staff share a clear vision on securing a good standard of care for every child. The manager has implemented new systems to evaluate children's progress and review practice in the home.

Staff and managers now receive regular, practice-related supervisions. As a result, staff feel listened to and supported.

The independent monitoring visits to the home lack scrutiny. The independent visitor cannot fully evaluate the care provided, due to a lack of consent from one child to access records and the child's bedroom. This means that leaders and managers have limited independent assurance regarding some noticeable concerns they have about the child's care needs, which impacts on the regulator's ability to monitor the home between inspections effectively.

Leaders and managers are aware of the home's strengths and weaknesses. They have found some areas that require improvements and have promptly addressed these. However, greater oversight of and response to the shortfalls found at this visit are needed.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
18/05/2021	Full	Outstanding
08/10/2019	Full	Outstanding
01/08/2018	Full	Outstanding

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii))	31 March 2023
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. 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 (1) (2)(b))	31 March 2023

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC061795

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Southern Adolescent Care Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Maybrook House, Second Floor, Queensway,
Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4AH

Responsible individual: Michelle Callard

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Alphie Khumalo, Social Care Inspector

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