

SC061795

Southern Adolescent Care Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private company. It provides care for up to six children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, including children who have experienced loss and trauma.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since June 2016.

Inspection date: 6 August 2021

This monitoring visit

On 5 August 2021, Ofsted was contacted by a senior manager from the company who told Ofsted of their decision to close the home with immediate effect. The decision had been made following an internal audit. Senior leaders concluded that the children were not being adequately safeguarded. Consequently, immediate notice was served by the company to each of the relevant local authorities which had children living in the home.

In response to this information, two inspectors visited the home on 6 August 2021 to review the care and safety of the four children. At the time of this visit, the company had deployed senior staff into the home to oversee the care provided. One child was missing from care and efforts were being made to locate him.

The registered manager and deputy manager were interviewed, and relevant documents were scrutinised. The inspectors found that admission practice was poor. The decision to offer placements to some of the children had not fully explored the potential risks that some children may have presented to each other. Subsequent risk management guidance did not contain sufficient information and actions for the staff to follow to minimise these risks and, in recent weeks, incidents of children going missing from home and substance misuse have increased.

Senior leaders were also interviewed. Their swift action, which included the immediate review and amendment of the most pertinent guidance for staff, was

considered as a protective factor, coupled with the planned physical presence of additional managers for the following days. During this visit, one child was being supported to move out, and a further placement was agreed for another child to start the following Monday.

A case review was conducted by Ofsted before the inspectors concluded the visit. It was agreed that the confirmed move for one child significantly reduced the risks for the remaining children, alongside the additional staffing arrangements that included senior managerial oversight. Consequently, no immediate enforcement action was required by Ofsted.

All children subsequently moved out of the home by 9 August 2021.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/05/2021	Full	Outstanding
08/10/2019	Full	Outstanding
01/08/2018	Full	Outstanding
13/09/2017	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, 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 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)(b))	5 November 2021
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f))	5 November 2021
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—	5 November 2021

that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a))	
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Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements for the children, following the information received from the provider.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC061795

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Southern Adolescent Care Services Limited

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

Responsible individual: Sharon Webster

Registered manager: Sharon Jenner

Inspectors

Sophie Wood, Regulatory Inspection Manager
Kelly Marchmont, Social Care Inspector

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