

SC061795

Southern Adolescent Care Services Ltd

Monitoring visit

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home can provide care for up to six children with social and emotional difficulties.

Senior leaders of the provider that acquired this group of homes ceased operating the home in August 2021. The provider accepted a condition to give Ofsted three months' notice of its intention to operate. Since that time, a full review of the service, which includes refurbishment of the home and staff recruitment, has been completed. Senior leaders have told Ofsted that the home is now ready to operate.

There has been no registered manager since August 2021.

Inspection date: 27 January 2022

This monitoring visit

Extensive refurbishment and redecoration have been completed. Rooms that were previously used as office areas are now dedicated lounge and quiet areas for the children. One single office is now located at the back of the home, no longer dominating the downstairs space. Internal closed circuit television cameras have been removed. This adds to the domestic and homely feel of the home. All necessary health and safety checks and measures have been completed, so that leaders are reassured about safety.

The children's bedrooms are bright, clean and ready for children to move into. These bedrooms are a blank canvas, ready for the children to add their personal touches. Bedrooms for the staff are situated to provide the necessary levels of night-time supervision, with staff in close proximity to the children, in the event of an emergency.

Senior leaders have systematically addressed the concerns and issues that they identified as their reasons for temporarily closing the home. A new responsible

individual has been appointed and the manager has submitted her application to be registered with Ofsted.

The staff team is comprised of staff who worked at this home previously, some who worked in the provider's other children's homes, and some newly recruited staff. The latter has been subject to sound recruitment practice. All staff are either suitably qualified or working to achieve the required level 3 diploma.

The manager is fully aware of the home's history. Consequently, she has been an integral part of the review that has resulted in lessons learned. During this inspection, three staff members confirmed their own inclusion in this process. They spoke of 'difficult findings', and one staff member said, 'It was painful, but needed to be done.' This inclusive review has resulted in the staff team's shared understanding of how they will be supported to deliver on the aims and objectives of the new statement of purpose.

Senior leaders have followed their plan well. The involvement from senior leadership, including the chief executive officer, has reassured the staff team of the leadership's strong commitment to improve. Initial interim leadership arrangements were clear and targeted. The manager and staff received daily input from a senior leader, complemented by the organisation's training provision. One staff member said, 'We have gone from being an island to a continent.' And another said, 'Being part of a bigger organisation feels safer and professional.'

Staff training, with a particular focus on safeguarding, has also considered the three requirements that were made from the previous inspection. There is a uniformed approach in readiness to use for children's care planning, and there is a coherent plan to consider referrals received from placing authorities. The manager knows what and how she is going to monitor. Team meetings have already started, as has the process for staff's individual supervision meetings.

All staff demonstrate a shared understanding of the next phase of reopening the home. This starts with a staggered approach to new children moving in. Staff are eager to welcome children, which they say will be based on a comprehensive assessment process.

Ofsted is reassured by the considered approach of the senior leadership over the last five months. The root and branch review resulted in targeted training that has successfully reset the culture of this home. Consequently, the three-month condition has been removed and the home is judged ready to operate.

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

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: 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: Jacqueline Hickman

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Sophie Wood, Regulatory Inspection Manager

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