

SC066466

Registered provider: The Cuckfield Care Consultancy Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a private provider and is registered to care for up to six children. The home provides medium- to long-term placements for vulnerable children with emotional, social and psychological difficulties. At the time of the inspection, one child was living in the home.

This registered manager has been in post since November 2024.

Inspection date: 16 July 2025

This monitoring visit

A full inspection was carried out on 3 and 4 June 2025. Serious and widespread concerns were identified and the home was judged to be inadequate. Following the inspection, a monitoring visit was carried out on 19 June 2025 in response to a significant escalation in safeguarding concerns. At this visit, it was found that serious and widespread concerns had continued to increase, and this resulted in the urgent suspension of the home's registration.

The purpose of this latest monitoring visit was to consider the provider's response to the suspension notice and to consider risks to children. At the time of the visit, one child was living in the home, despite the suspension of the home's registration. The provider has been working with the local authority to identify a suitable provision for the child to move to, but this has so far been unsuccessful.

There continue to be significant concerns regarding the safety of children and safeguarding practice in the home. On one occasion, an allegation against staff had not been appropriately managed. Although managers shared information with relevant agencies, they failed to take any action to manage the risk, exposing children to continued risk of harm. In addition, they failed to escalate concerns when responses from safeguarding partners were not forthcoming. This lack of

understanding and the inaction of leaders and managers compromised the safety of children and staff.

The child living in the home is now less involved in misusing substances and has spent time with positive people in their life. However, managers are unsure of what has led to this change for the child.

Leaders and managers have identified a need for a wide range of training to increase the knowledge and skills of all staff, including managers. In addition, they have plans to review the home's statement of purpose and consider the range of needs that they can accommodate. However, these plans have not started to be implemented.

Leaders and managers continue to be unable to independently identify shortfalls in meeting regulations. Instead, there is a reliance on other agencies, including the regulator, to raise concerns before considering what action is needed. This lack of insight and reflection has contributed to a lack of progress since the last inspection.

Since the last inspection, leaders and managers have ensured that serious incidents are reported to Ofsted within appropriate time frames. Therefore, this requirement is met. However, all other requirements have been restated as there has not been sufficient progress made against them. Findings from this visit continue to highlight that leaders and managers are unable to keep children safe or for them to make adequate progress in the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/06/2025	Full	Inadequate
09/10/2024	Full	Good
17/07/2024	Full	Inadequate
03/05/2023	Full	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 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 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; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; 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 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)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(b)) In particular, the registered provider must ensure that staff have the skills to identify and act accordingly when there is a safeguarding concern for a child, and that risks and risk mitigation strategies for all children to reduce the risks of harm are reviewed.	25 August 2025

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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(d)(f)(h))	25 August 2025
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c)) In particular, ensure that appropriate action is taken when a child raises an allegation, and that leaders and managers raise appropriate challenge to relevant safeguarding partners when their responses fall short.	25 August 2025
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and	25 August 2025

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— that each child’s relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)) In particular, ensure that children’s care planning is informed by the relevant plans from children’s placing authorities and is updated to reflect children’s needs, and that children have positive endings when moving on from the home.	
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; help each child who is above compulsory school age to participate in further education, training or employment and to prepare for future care, education or employment. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(v)(viii)(ix)) In particular, ensure that all children are engaged in education or employment, or have a plan to return to education or employment without delay.	25 August 2025
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child;	25 August 2025

details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure;

the date, time and location of the use of the measure;

a description of the measure and its duration;

details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;

the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used;

the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and

a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;

within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—

has spoken to the user about the measure; and

has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and

within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.

(Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))

In particular, ensure there is a record of any consequences used to support children's behaviour and that managers have oversight of such records.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor compliance with enforcement action and 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: SC066466

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Cuckfield Care Consultancy Limited

Registered provider address: Ashburnham, Cuckfield Road, Ansty, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 5AG

Responsible individual: Dale Dawson

Registered manager: Samantha Slade

Inspector

Jay Shekleton, Social Care Inspector

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