

SC067753

West Sussex County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides care and support for a maximum of 10 children with complex needs. The home can accommodate children with both physical and learning disabilities, some of whom may display challenging behaviour. The home provides permanent placements and short breaks.

The manager post has been vacant since March 2021.

Inspection date: 29 March 2021

This monitoring visit

This home was temporarily shut by the organisation operating it in October 2018. The closure was in relation to a review of residential services and the ability of the home's staff to provide a consistent service in line with the home's statement of purpose.

This visit was carried out in order to assess whether refurbishment has improved the standard of accommodation and whether it is safe and appropriate for the children who will live at this home.

During this visit, the inspector met with the responsible individual, the acting manager and the project manager. A tour of the premises was undertaken and a number of documents were examined.

The refurbishment of this home has been completed to an excellent standard. The premises have been upgraded and modernised with considerable care and attention. Managers have used the skills and knowledge of various professionals, such as occupational therapists and staff from other homes, to inform the décor and refurbishment. Importantly, children who use a similar home were also invited to visit the refurbished home and to give their opinions on the quality of the accommodation. These views have been overwhelmingly positive.

The communal areas have been designed with the children's needs in mind. Hoist equipment has been relocated and rooms designed so that children who are non-ambulant can access all areas of their home. For example, the refurbished kitchens have hobs and cooking equipment which can be raised or lowered. Specialist play equipment and baths have also been installed and commissioned. The external play area has been completely redesigned and renewed to a high standard. It now has a variety of different activities designed to provide stimulus and fun for the children.

There are clear fire procedures in place and the fire detection equipment has been serviced and checked. The responsible individual and acting manager have a training plan in place for new staff. This will take place over a three-week period, before children are admitted to the home on an incremental basis. There is drive and determination from the managers to ensure that the staff team establishes a shared positive and caring culture, so that children will benefit from their time at this home.

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this visit.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/09/2017	Full	Good
27/02/2017	Full	Good
26/09/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
09/02/2016	Full	Good

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: SC067753

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: West Sussex County Council

Registered provider address: West Sussex County Council, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RQ

Responsible individual: Julian Skeates

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Paul Taylor, Social Care Inspector

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