

SC407430

Registered provider: Wessex College Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provider states in their statement of purpose that they provide care for up to four children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in April 2020.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection date: 12 January 2022

Date of last inspection: 27 April 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, two children have moved from the home. One child moved to return to live with her family in accordance with her plan.

Following the admission of another child to the home, it quickly became clear that the staff were unable to manage her behaviour safely and she was having a negative impact on the other three children in the home. Leaders and managers took swift and decisive action and asked the placing authority to find an alternative home for the child where her needs could be met. The placing authority agreed that they had not provided the manager with accurate information about the extent of the child's complex care needs and moved the child.

The home is settled, daily routines are running smoothly and the three children are making progress in line with their plans. Two of the children are approaching the time when they will move on to supported independent living arrangements. The adults in the home are carefully preparing them for this move. The children have gained part-time jobs and are learning the independent living skills that they will need in the future, such as budgeting and cooking.

Many improvements to the home have taken place since the last inspection. The children have been fully involved in choosing new furniture, carpets and colour schemes. The home is now offering a homely and comfortable environment that the children are proud of and where they are gaining a sense of belonging. In accordance with the development plan, work is continuing to further improve the kitchen and bathrooms and replace bedroom doors.

The adults in the home are consistent, well trained and report a positive change in the culture of the home. They are motivated and enthusiastic and are providing nurturing care to the children, who are responding by not going missing, are making educational progress and are settled. The home does not use agency staff. If an adult is absent because of sickness or a holiday, then other adults cover the shifts to ensure consistency and stability for the children.

Children feel safe living in the home and report they can speak with all adults if they feel worried or upset. Safeguarding procedures are robust and staff are confident to use them if necessary.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/04/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/01/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
21/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
24/10/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home provides a homely and domestic environment and that any damage is promptly repaired. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3)

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC407430

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Wessex College Limited

Registered provider address: Atria, Spa Road, Bolton BL1 4AG

Responsible individual: Samantha Choules

Registered manager: Claire Bates

Inspector

Tina Maddison, Social Care Inspector

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