

SC407430

Registered provider: Wessex College

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

- The home can provide care for up to four children aged over 11 years who may have experienced trauma and/or abuse, and who may have attachment difficulties.
- This home is one of six homes operated by a private organisation. The organisation also owns a school and a farm which children from this home may attend.
- The registered manager resigned in September 2018. The new manager intends to submit an application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 24 October 2018

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 5 April 2018

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 sustained effectiveness.

In the last three months, the home has become more settled. The care team focused on stabilising the one child who remained living in the home. This period of stability has been successful and the child is making good progress. The way in which leaders and managers now consider the suitability of new children moving in has improved. As a result, one child has moved in successfully.

The consistency of care provided for children is improving as the staff team becomes more consistent. Staff development has focused more on the team understanding children's developmental stages and using trauma-based models of care to support its

work. Staff are starting to implement this positive ethos well in the care they provide for children.

Children and staff now have positive relationships with one another. Children are more involved in planning their care. Care plans focus more effectively on the needs of the child. An experienced manager within the company is leading a new approach to help staff to support children more effectively. This approach is creating opportunities for staff to respond to children's needs more proactively.

Leaders and managers implement the child protection policy effectively. Referrals to safeguarding professionals are completed appropriately, with good collaborative working to safeguard children.

Progress has been made towards meeting some of the previous requirements, such as improving the frequency of staff supervision. In other areas, more work is required to meet the requirements fully. Repetitive consequences continue to be recorded as ineffective and currently this does not inform the care provided to children. Not all new staff have been involved in a fire drill.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/04/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/06/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/11/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/07/2016	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, 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
25: Fire precautions After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must— ensure, by means of fire drills and practices at suitable intervals, that persons working at the home and, so far as reasonably	29/11/2018

practicable, children are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire. (Regulation 25(1)(d)) In particular, ensure staff working in the home take part in fire drills and practices.	
35: Behaviour management policies and records 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 effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35(3)(a)(vii)) In particular, review the use of consequences imposed, particularly when the consequence is repeatedly recorded as ineffective.	29/11/2018

Recommendations

- The registered person is responsible for leading a team which provides high-quality care for all children living in the home. They must lead and manage the home in a way that delivers the ethos, outcomes and approach set out in the home's statement of purpose ('Guide to the children's home regulations including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.4). In particular, continue to improve and embed the ethos and culture in line with the statement of purpose.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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.

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

Registered provider address: Wessex College Limited, 4 Cedar Park, Cobham Road, Ferndown Industrial Estate, Wimborne BH21 7SF

Responsible individual: Joanne Sams

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Nicola Lownds, social care inspector

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