

SC439282

Registered provider: Kent County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This short-breaks service is jointly funded by the health authority and the local authority. The home provides short breaks for up to four children with physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities.

At the time of this inspection, one child was staying at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2022.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 November 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 1 October 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/10/2024	Full	Good
19/12/2023	Full	Good
16/08/2022	Full	Good
02/12/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive individualised care from a caring and knowledgeable staff team. As this is a short-break provision, children's needs are varied, and staff demonstrate immense skill in managing differing communication and behavioural needs. Children are making good progress and are excited to stay.

Staff work collaboratively with parents. Detailed admissions meetings between parents and staff take place at the start of visits. This ensures that staff have the most up-to-date information when looking after a child and understand their care and health needs.

Children's successes are celebrated through certificates, memory books and displays on the wall. Staff work closely with children, parents, social workers and education professionals to ensure that children experience consistent approaches to supporting their needs and helping them to meet their individual development goals. Social workers and families praise this approach, with one social worker describing this work as invaluable.

Children are supported to be part of the local community. As well as going out to local restaurants they take part in activities such as litter picking and community events. Children contribute to a monthly garden programme, which helps them to learn how to grow and care for plants.

Children's views are taken seriously. Leaders use creative ways to gather feedback, including regular surveys and day-to-day conversations. Staff ensure that children know how their views have influenced decisions, for example through 'you said, we did' work. This helps children to feel valued and understand that their opinions matter.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

There is a strong safeguarding culture in the home. Leaders support and challenge staff to be aware of risks and how to respond to them. They also ensure that they fully understand children's needs so that they can provide safe care when the children are staying. Children are cared for in a safe environment by a team of staff who know their individual needs well.

Staff understand each child's needs and use effective strategies to keep them safe. When children's behaviour changes, staff respond quickly and provide support. This consistent and knowledgeable approach means that incidents of negative behaviour are infrequent.

The registered manager works effectively with the professional network to consult and share information when necessary. He has effective systems in place to oversee all aspects of safeguarding practice. He makes good use of quarterly reports to identify any

patterns or trends in relation to incidents and supports staff to learn and improve care practice accordingly.

Safeguarding is a consistent topic in all supervision and team meetings, ensuring that staff are reminded of their responsibilities. Any concerns about staff practice are immediately responded to.

Improvements have been made to recruitment practice. Leaders and managers ensure that staff are thoroughly vetted and assessed before they are appointed. This ensures that only suitable people work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by an experienced and dedicated registered manager who is supported effectively by an experienced senior team.

Leaders and managers lead by example and advocate strongly for children to ensure that they receive high standards of care. Leaders role model good practice by working closely with new staff to ensure that their expectations of care are shared and understood. Despite recent periods of sickness resulting in staff changes at short notice, leaders have ensured that any impact on children's short breaks has been minimal.

Managers support staff well. Supervision, appraisal and training help staff to develop skills and understanding of their role. Staff speak positively about the support they receive and have confidence that the manager is available both formally and informally. When concerns about staff practice arise, leaders respond promptly, challenge appropriately and provide support to improve practice.

Leaders have made significant change in the home as a result of the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. They have recognised where practice needed improvement and introduced new systems to ensure strong management oversight of all aspects of the home.

Children's views are valued. Leaders have acted on suggestions from children, resulting in changes such as redecoration and the addition of a garden canopy.

Independent monitoring takes place through monthly visits. However, these visits do not provide adequate scrutiny or information to help leaders identify any potential areas for improvement or service development.

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 independent person's report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions. (Regulation 44 (5))	30 December 2025

Information about this 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: SC439282

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Kent County Council

Registered provider address: Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone ME14 1XQ

Responsible individual: Tanya Hartness

Registered manager: Matthew Grice

Inspector

Mark Newington, Social Care Inspector

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