

SC469396

Registered provider: Acorn Homes (UK) Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home can provide care for up to four children aged between 11 and 18 who experience challenges with their social, emotional and behavioural development. At the time of the inspection, there were no children living in the home.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since November 2021.

Inspection date: 25 March 2025

Date of last inspection: 12 June 2023

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

There were no children living in the home at the time of this inspection and no plans for children to move in until essential maintenance work has been completed and a full staff team recruited. Leaders recognise that the home is not ready for children to move in yet and have clear plans to ensure the environment is safe and suitable for children before considering any referrals.

Extensive improvements are being made to ensure that the home is welcoming and suitable for children. The summer house is being renovated to provide a recreational space and a new patio will provide a further outdoor area for children to enjoy. Perimeter fencing and additional external lighting has been introduced to improve the safety and visibility of the grounds.

The independent visitor continues to visit the home while it is unoccupied, and the maintenance team regularly attends to ensure that safety and security are maintained.

The home has a suitable registered manager. However, the provider has recruited a new manager and deputy, who were due to start work in April 2025.

New staff have been recruited, with a small number of vacancies remaining. Leaders are focusing on training and developing the staff team in preparation for children moving into the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/06/2023	Full	Good
21/03/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
01/02/2022	Full	Good
23/01/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC469396

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Acorn Homes (UK) Ltd

Registered provider address: Unit 73 and 74 Maple Leaf Business Park, Manston, Ramsgate CT12 5GD

Responsible individual: Sophie Wood

Registered manager: Benjamin Blackwell

Inspector

Tash Williams, Social Care Inspector

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