

SC038719

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict children's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 16 children aged between 10 and 17 years who are placed by local authorities under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

Under section 25 of the Children Act 1989, admission of any child who is under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

The commissioning of health services in this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

Inspection date: 26 February 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 13 November 2018

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.

Progress on the four requirements set at the last inspection was assessed at this inspection, as were recommendations made which were not related to education or health. Those recommendations will be assessed at the home's next full inspection.

A requirement relating to ensuring that children are kept safe was made at the full inspection in November 2018. This related to an incident when children had been left

unattended in a corridor for a period of time. Since the last inspection, there have been no similar incidents. Staff awareness is good and ensures that children are now safely supervised at all times. This requirement is met.

A requirement was made in relation to ensuring that incidents when children are 'managed away' are appropriately monitored by managers. This has been addressed. Records of these incidents are now of good quality and show that managers have regularly reviewed the measure. Consequently, children have rejoined their peers when it has been judged to be appropriate and safe.

A requirement was made relating to ensuring that serious incidents are shared promptly with Ofsted. This has been addressed. Since the last inspection, all such incidents have been shared in a timely manner and updated when needed.

At the last inspection, a recommendation was made relating to ensuring that sanctions are appropriate to the misdemeanour and related to addressing the behaviour. Some sanctions have been reviewed by managers who have not recognised the shortfalls or have not recorded how practice has been addressed. This means that there has been insufficient appraisal of the effectiveness or appropriateness of the sanctions. The shortfall is now subject to a requirement.

A recommendation made at the last inspection relating to carrying out searches of children's rooms only when necessary has also been addressed. Previously, there had been routine searches of children's rooms even when there was no apparent risk. This practice has now ceased, and searches are carried out only when there are concerns that children may be at risk or there is information that there may be contraband in the room.

Since the last inspection, there has been a concerted effort to improve the range of enriching activities available. Children say that there is enough to do to keep them busy. However, the system has not been fully tested due to reduced occupancy in the home. This recommendation is met, as the efforts being made by staff at this point in time ensure that the children have opportunities to take part in numerous different activities.

Since the last inspection, there have been no monthly visits from an independent person as required under legislation. One visit has been missed and reports have not been received by Ofsted in a timely manner. This means that it is difficult to monitor the performance of the home and be alert to possible shortfalls. There has been no impact on the children's welfare due to other monitoring systems. For example, children have ready access to advocates and other external professionals. This shortfall has been identified by the responsible individual but has not yet been rectified.

The feedback from visiting professionals, in relation to the tenacity of staff in working with very challenging children, is very positive. 'Staff have invested in her', said a visiting social worker. It is clear that staff continue to work determinedly and doggedly to help children to move forward. Relationships are warm and understanding, and children seek staff's company and advice.

Staff have an active role in influencing planning decisions for children, and advocate strongly on their behalf to improve their chances of success at their next placement. As a result, children trust them.

Ongoing major refurbishment has meant that occupancy has been reduced. This has been very well managed, and staff responsible for overseeing the project have ensured that children's choices and activities, as well as the quality of the decor, have remained of a good standard. Disruption during this time has been skilfully minimised.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/11/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/02/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
25/04/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/11/2016	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.

Requirement	Due date
<p>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 name of the child; details of the child’s behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure (“the user”), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so (“the authorised person”)– has spoken to the user about the measure; has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)(iv))</p> <p>Specifically, ensure that sanctions are relevant to the misdemeanour, are scrutinised promptly and any records of conversations around their use are recorded.</p>	<p>30/03/2019</p>
<p>The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children’s home at least once each month.</p> <p>When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person– if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the</p>	<p>30/03/2019</p>

independent person requires; and to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires.

A visit by the independent person to the home may be unannounced.

The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether— children are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.

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 (1)(2)(a)(b)(3)(4)(a)(b)(5))

Ensure that the visits happen on a monthly basis and that reports of the visits are sent to the relevant professionals in a timely manner.

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 difference 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: SC038719

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Registered provider address: 3rd floor, Elizabeth II Court North, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG

Responsible individual: Amber James

Registered manager: Sophia Mathias

Inspectors

Paul Taylor, social care inspector
Lee Kirwin, social care inspector

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