

SC046276

Devon County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This secure children's home is managed by a local authority. The Department for Education approves it to restrict young people's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 12 children and young people who are aged between 10 and 17 years and accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989. Admission of any young person 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.

The registered manager is registered with Ofsted and has managed the home since August 2016.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

We last visited this setting on 12 to 14 October 2020 to carry out an assurance visit. The report is published on our website.

Inspection date: 26 May 2021

This monitoring visit

A monitoring visit was carried out following receipt by Ofsted of a regulation 40 notification from the home. The notification concerned a child who became unresponsive during a physical restraint. The child had broken through internal gates and gained access to a separate part of the grounds.

Inspectors had a tour of the unit, including looking at the areas where the security breach and the incident of restraint took place. They met with children and senior

staff. They looked at records and viewed a number of incidents of restraint on CCTV (closed circuit television), including the restraint in question.

As a result of this visit, concerns are identified about one restraint. There are no significant concerns about restraint practice in general. In the one case, inspectors found that there was a failure by managers to be curious about the reasons why the child had become unresponsive and limp for seven minutes, while being restrained on the ground in supine position. As a result, insufficient protective strategies had been explored, or put into place, to prevent the risk of the child becoming unresponsive if restrained in the future. Furthermore, the intervention used to incapacitate the child at the start of the restraint was overzealous and potentially harmful.

Records about the restraint in question are contradictory, as participants and observers provide differing accounts of the incident. The regulation 40 notification to Ofsted completed by the registered manager failed to provide sufficient, accurate information. There is a failure to fully explore or urgently analyse all accounts of the incident, with a view to fully establishing risk factors.

The monitoring and maintenance of the premises did not identify the corrosion of internal gates. As a result, the integrity of an internal gate was breached.

Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 03/03/2020 | Interim | Sustained effectiveness |
| 08/10/2019 | Full | Good |
| 05/03/2019 | Full | Good |
| 30/10/2018 | 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.

| Requirement | Due date |
|---|--------------|
| <p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)(iii)(d))</p> <p>This relates to ensuring that staff have the skills to understand when the use of restraint may have a detrimental outcome on the child's health. Also, ensuring that all known risks related to children's health have been comprehensively explored in relation to the risk of using physical restraint.</p> <p>The premises must be maintained in good order, ensuring the integrity of all secure areas.</p> | 26 May 2021 |
| <p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(h))</p> | 15 June 2021 |

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|--|--------------------|
| <p>This relates to the registered manager ensuring essential monitoring of the premises so that the security of the building cannot be breached and to ensure that records and CCTV are monitored and reviewed effectively.</p> | |
| <p>Restraint in relation to a child is only permitted for the purpose of preventing— injury to any person (including the child); serious damage to the property of any person (including the child); or a child who is accommodated in a secure children's home from absconding from the home. Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2))</p> | <p>26 May 2021</p> |
| <p>A notification made under this regulation— must include details of— the matter; and any actions taken by the registered person as a result of the matter. (Regulation 40 (5)(a)(i)(iii))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that notifications made to Ofsted are comprehensive and accurate.</p> | <p>26 May 2021</p> |

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC046276

Provision sub-type: Secure Unit

Registered provider: Devon County Council

Registered provider address: Chief Officer for Children's Social Services, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QD

Responsible individual: Julie Mephram

Registered manager: Darren Beattie

Inspectors

Michelle Oxley, Social Care Regulatory Inspection Manager
Janet Fraser, Senior Her Majesty's Inspector

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