

# SC031490

Registered provider: East Sussex 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 home can accommodate up to seven children who are aged between 10 and 17. It provides for children accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989, who are placed by local authorities.

There were four children resident in the secure home at the time of this inspection.

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

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 appointed home manager is in the process of applying to Ofsted to be registered.

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 19 October 2020, to carry out an assurance visit.

**Inspection date:** 3 August 2021

**Date of last inspection:** 25 February 2020

**Judgement at last inspection:** good

**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 good at the last full inspection.  
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

The home has addressed most of the requirements from the last inspection. Each child's behaviour and emotional needs are identified and are being met. Children's behaviours are improving.

Staff are receiving regular, and recorded, supervision. Staff are also receiving reflective supervision. The quality of supervision is monitored, and managers are responding to any areas for development. Supervisors have received supervision training.

Staff have received refresher training in safeguarding practice and policies. Staff adhere to the home's child protection policies. Further developments include improvements to the comprehensive induction programme for newly appointed staff. There is clear guidance regarding roles and responsibilities for safeguarding children living in the home.

Records of incidents capture children's views. Managers undertake debriefing exercises with staff following any safeguarding incidents. These debriefing exercises fully review the incident and explore if different approaches could have been used. Any learning is shared within the service.

Ofsted is notified regarding police involvement with the home in a timely way. Where necessary, managers respond promptly to any queries for additional information.

Monitoring systems are much improved. The independent visitor's reports are thorough and identify any shortfalls in practice in relation to the relevant regulations and quality standards.

The manager is in the process of developing robust monitoring of practice and recording. One particular concern he has identified, and is addressing, is the recording of single separations. For one child, part of his behaviour management plan is to spend time in his room to calm. Sometimes, he chooses to do this and he regulates his own behaviour. Staff carefully monitor these occasions. However, there needs to be clarity regarding the reporting and recording of these occasions. The requirement regarding improving monitoring systems is therefore repeated.

There has been a period of time leading up to this inspection that children have been unsettled. This is partly attributable to the impact of COVID-19 on staff and management capacity. It is also related to a combination of complex needs and

behaviours of the children living in the home. There has been a change of home manager and some children have moved on from the home in a planned way.

At the point of this inspection, children are settled and they are building trusting relationships with staff. Their lived experiences in the home are very positive. They are benefiting from structured routines. Attendance and participation in education increased prior to the end of term. There is a full activity timetable for the summer holidays. This includes football coaching, a visit to the home from a zoo, planned activities in the community and visits with family. Children are also encouraged and supported by staff to access online education during this time.

For children moving on from the home, staff ensured that there was good information-sharing about each child's needs and assessments. Professionals are positive about the support from the home for children experiencing changes, and that they follow up with contact with the child.

For children moving into the home, placing authorities have been equally positive about planning, communication, and the quality of care the children are experiencing in the home. Professionals are particularly complimentary about the manager's oversight of practice in the home and his commitment and skill in supporting children to settle.

For one child who has moved in, English is not their first language. Communication is readily facilitated by easy access to an interpreter and important documents have been translated. The care provided is culturally sensitive. The child expressed satisfaction with the care and daily routine, and is making good progress with English.

The manager has improved partnership working with health, education and care staff in the home. He is aspirational for children and staff. Staff morale has improved.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/02/2020	Full	Good
12/11/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
25/09/2018	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
<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—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; and</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(f)(h))</p>	<p>10 September 2021</p>

### Information about this inspection

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.

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:** SC031490

**Provision sub-type:** Secure Unit

**Registered provider address:** County Hall, St. Annes Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE

**Responsible individual:** Elizabeth Rugg

**Registered manager:** Post vacant

## Inspectors

Cathey Moriarty, Social Care Inspector  
Nick Stacey, Social Care Inspector

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