

# SC038719

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this secure children's home

This secure children's home is managed by a local authority. It is approved by the Department for Education to restrict children's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 16 children, who are aged between 10 and 17 years.

There were five children living in the home at the time of this inspection.

The secure children's home provides accommodation for children placed by local authorities under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

Admission of any child under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 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.

The acting manager has applied to Ofsted to be registered.

**Inspection date: 22 February 2022**

**Date of last inspection:** 6 July 2021

**Judgement at last inspection:** Requires improvement to be 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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has sustained effectiveness.

During this inspection, the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection on 6 July 2021, related to health care and education, were not assessed or reviewed. These will be considered at the next full inspection.

The occupancy of the home has been reduced because of the demands on staff due to the impact of COVID-19, other staff sickness and the complexity of the children's needs. There is an ongoing recruitment campaign to increase staff numbers. Managers have, at times, worked on shifts to make up staffing numbers and to offer support.

Staff have shown resilience and determination and have strived to ensure that children are kept safe and make progress. Children who met with inspectors were positive about the care they have received. One child said, 'This place has changed my life. The best things here are the staff.' She added, 'I know myself much better now; they've helped me understand myself.'

The care and support children receive have enabled them to reflect on the past and begin to implement new strategies to cope with difficult situations and challenges more effectively.

The five requirements made at the last inspection on 6 July 2021, not related to health or education, have been addressed. Improvements have been made to ensure that staff are aware of each child's vulnerabilities and risks and implement agreed strategies to keep them safe. This includes the support children need during approved outings and the level of supervision needed if they are unsettled and at risk of self-harm.

Children are now actively involved in the development of their care and behaviour support plans. They meet with a manager on a weekly basis to discuss their progress. This helps them to feel that they are involved in the planning of their care.

The recording of key-work sessions is much improved. These are now insightful and show that children's opinions and feelings, especially concerning areas that are affecting their well-being, are explored and discussed. In all cases, the records showed that the children are reassured and offered help.

There are daily checks carried out by staff to ensure that all areas of the home are safe. They ensure that detritus, such as loose masonry or objects that may have been blown into the perimeter, are removed to lessen the risk to children and staff.

Three recommendations made at the last inspection, relating to the care of the children, have been addressed. Children report that the quality of food has improved, and records show that their feedback is sought on a regular basis. Members of staff also commented on the improvement in the quality of food provided.

Children said they are kept busy and have a variety of activities on offer. During the inspection, some children declined to meet with inspectors as they were too busy enjoying activities, such as using a dance mat and making cakes with members of staff. Other children who met with inspectors spoke of enjoying activities such as music, art and going on mobilities (approved trips into the community) when the opportunity arose. Plans for activity and enrichment weeks show that members of staff are proactive in ensuring that the children have access to activities which will engage them and provide enjoyment.

There is a new and improved children's guide that is written in an accessible format. The document remains under review to ensure that it remains relevant and accessible to children.

Safeguarding concerns are shared effectively and promptly with the relevant agencies. Professionals from local authorities report very good communication and sharing of information. The local authority designated officer reported that the transparency and quality of information in relation to referrals have improved over the last nine months. This means that children's safety is promoted, and plans are put in place to keep children safe where required.

Records of physical restraint incidents were sampled. Managers review each incident to ensure that the legal criteria are met and that the children's health and well-being are checked. A child who met with inspectors reported that the use of restraint is fair and that she meets staff to discuss the incidents after they have happened.

One incident reviewed by inspectors was extremely challenging for staff. However, the manager had missed aspects of staff practice where there was the potential for injury to the child. There was no evidence of any intention by staff to harm the child, and the child was assessed by a health professional after the event to ensure their well-being. The manager fully accepted this and now plans to implement a further layer of review for future incidents that involve physical interventions.

## Recent inspection history

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Inspection judgement</b>
06/07/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/10/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
14/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/02/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

## What does the secure 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 education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study;</p> <p>promote opportunities for each child to learn informally. (Regulation 8 (2)(a)(i)(ii)(v))</p>	<p>31 March 2022</p>
<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>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>	<p>31 March 2022</p>

In particular, ensure that through scrutiny of restraints they recognises any potential risks to the children and takes action so that staff practice improves.	
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## Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that effective care planning and strong working relationships exist between the health care team and the home. In particular, ensure all of the staff members adhere to the principles of the secure stairs model. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.2)
- The registered person should ensure that the ethos of the home supports each child to learn. Leaders and managers should ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of older children and supports them moving into further education and employment. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 29, paragraph 5.18)
- The registered person should ensure that the recruitment of staff safeguards children and minimises potential risks to them. In particular, that the home recruits a health care manager, substance misuse worker to support the care of children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

## 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'.

## Secure 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:** Kieran Lyons

**Registered manager:** Position vacant

## Inspectors

Paul Taylor, Social Care Inspector  
Shaun Common, Senior Officer, Secure Estate  
Helen Simmons, Social Care Inspector

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