

# 2583028

Registered provider: Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care for four children between the ages of five and 17. According to the home's statement of purpose, it provides care for children with social, emotional and behavioural challenges, as well as some form of deafness or communication difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, the registered manager was leaving. A new manager had been appointed, who starts in October 2022.

Two children were living in the home.

### Inspection dates: 6 and 7 September 2022

**Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account** **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **requires improvement to be good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **requires improvement to be good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 7 March 2022

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** improved effectiveness

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| <b>Inspection date</b> | <b>Inspection type</b> | <b>Inspection judgement</b>     |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 07/03/2022             | Interim                | Improved effectiveness          |
| 11/10/2021             | Full                   | Requires improvement to be good |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Since previous inspection, one child has left. The manager worked with other agencies to settle the child in her new home. Another child has arrived at the home. The manager and staff listened to the existing child's views. He arranged a virtual introduction for the children before the child arrived.

Staff know the children and keep in close contact with other professionals to make sure the children's needs are met. Managers are strong advocates for children. For example, professionals' meetings were held regularly to help one child get back into the classroom. Both children regularly attend school.

Staff monitor the children's health. They keep one child's medication under careful review to monitor the effects on his well-being. This has helped the child to settle at night and maintain a stable weight.

Children have trusting relationships with staff. Staff talk about what affects the children and find solutions. Staff work sensitively with the children to help them overcome their difficulties and to become more resilient. For example, staff help one child to exercise at a safe level for his age.

Staff help the children to have positive relationships. While the children often coexist in the home, staff organise joint activities and weekly film nights, which the children enjoy. One child now refers to the other child as 'his brother' at school. Staff keep children in contact with their families. They provide newsletters full of photos of the children's activities.

The home is large and well furnished. However, there is some wear and tear and a lack of personal pictures throughout the home.

### **How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good**

Staff are consistent in how they approach boundaries around the children. They use a combination of creative strategies to help the children to manage their emotions. This has helped one child to learn how to safely cross the road. This has increased his level of confidence in understanding how to keep himself safe.

Managers have introduced an experienced deputy manager who has provided training on how to respond to the children's behaviour with therapeutic techniques. This has helped staff to respond differently to some of the children's behaviour. This has helped to reduce the number of incidents.

However, staff do not always record incidents so that restraints are clearly identified.

Leaders and managers do not always identify safeguarding thresholds. This means that other professionals are not notified promptly to provide a multi-agency response to a risk.

**The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good**

Despite the change in the home's manager, the responsible individual and deputy manager regularly support staff to reduce any disruption to the children's daily care. The core team of staff is stable. They develop respectful practice and provide good role models for the children.

Leaders learn from past experiences. For example, the home's statement of purpose is much clearer about which children the home can support. They listen to staff and are better able to identify children whose needs can be consistently met by staff.

Managers and staff have developed practice at team meetings. Staff look at the reasons behind each child's behaviour and what staff can do to help the children.

Managers support staff to progress with their training. However, managers still need to arrange staff training on how to accurately record information, and how to find case notes about the children easily online. Some refresher training is required to help staff meet one child's needs.

Some incidents are not recorded in the correct place, including a restraint episode. This reduces the ability of managers to learn and see patterns of behaviour.

## 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 promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;</p> <p>ensure that the home’s workforce provides continuity of care to each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c))</p> <p>In particular, carers should receive the relevant training to meet the individual needs of each child.</p> <p>Carers should receive training to fully operate the home’s information technology (IT) system.</p> | <p>21 October 2022</p>   |
| <p>Restraint in relation to a child is only permitted for the purpose of preventing—</p> <p>injury to any person (including the child);</p> <p>serious damage to the property of any person (including the child).</p> <p>Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b) (2))</p> <p>In particular, records must be clearly identifiable, and the child’s feelings be fully considered.</p>  | <p>30 September 2022</p> |
|  |                          |

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))</p> <p>In particular, new safeguarding concerns and any professional allegations must be notified to Ofsted to ensure transparency.</p> | <p>30 September 2022</p> |
|---|--------------------------|

## Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that fixtures and fittings of the home are maintained to create a domestic environment. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

## Information about this 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:** 2583028

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education

**Registered provider address:** The Deaf Academy, 1 Douglas Avenue, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2AU

**Responsible individual:** James Heaver

**Registered manager:** Alex Stephens

## Inspector

Justine Hosking, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2022