

# 1256973

Registered provider: Cameron & Cooper Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care for up to six children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. It is owned and run by a private organisation. There are currently five children living at the home.

There has been no registered manager since May 2019.

Most of the children living at the home attend the organisation's school, which is located on the same site. The inspector only inspected the social care provision.

**Inspection date:** 20 and 21 September 2022

**Date of last inspection:** 24 May 2022

**Judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

## **Findings from the inspection**

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

### **The care of children**

Children reported an improvement in their experience of care since the last inspection, and they are making better progress, particularly with regards to engaging in education. Managers have made some progress in addressing some of the shortfalls identified at the last inspection.

A child recently moved into the home. Managers considered all available information to assess that they could meet the needs of this child. Unfortunately, the information they based this decision on was incomplete and, consequently, they are struggling to meet the needs of this child and keep her safe. They are working closely with the placing authority to ensure that they have an accurate assessment of her needs and that safety plans are in place.

This set of circumstances has caused some disruption and has had an impact on the ability of managers to fully address all the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. During this inspection, some children's behaviour was having a negative impact on other children. Staff did not provide sufficient challenge to ensure that children were showing each other mutual respect. As a result, children are not benefiting from opportunities to learn how to build and maintain positive relationships with each other and with staff. This is a repeated requirement.

Children are encouraged to eat a healthy, balanced diet. One child proudly told the inspector that they were happy to be looking and feeling healthier. However, one child's plans do not provide sufficient information to reliably inform staff how to meet the child's physical and mental health needs. There is a repeated requirement in relation to children's health and well-being.

Children's attendance at the on-site school has improved, on the whole. This is largely due to changes to the group of children living at the home. There has been effective joint working between the care and education teams. Plans have been put in place with the intention that, if children begin to struggle to attend school again, they will continue to receive effective support to achieve in education.

The condition of the home has improved. Several areas have been redecorated and refurbished. This has made the environment more homely, comfortable and welcoming.

### **The safety of children**

Since coming to live at the home, one child has begun to display behaviour that places them at risk of significant harm. The child is on a waiting list for specialist intervention in relation to their mental health. The child's current risk assessment

and support plan are not yet informed by specialist advice from adolescent mental health professionals. This means that staff cannot be reassured that their interventions are based on a clear understanding of the child's presenting needs and behaviours. Staff have responded appropriately to incidents to ensure the child's immediate safety.

The quality of compatibility risk assessments and children's individual risk assessments has improved. They are updated when children's risks change, or when new information is received. However, two new staff who were working on shift during the inspection said that they had not had the opportunity to read children's risk assessments, and no one had explained how to meet children's individual needs. One of these staff members described how they had recently had to manage a child's self-harm incident. Although they managed this effectively, they have not had the opportunity for any reflection with managers to ensure that they worked in accordance with the child's relevant plans. There is a repeated requirement in relation to the protection of children. During the inspection, managers took steps to address the issues raised by the staff members and to ensure that they were familiar with the children's safety plans.

One child has recently sustained a minor injury due to being hit by a car when they were accessing the community independently. Staff ensured that the child was seen by medical professionals. The child is said to be 'shaken up' by the incident and has received emotional support from staff. However, records do not demonstrate that the child has been provided with road safety advice to reduce the risk of a similar incident happening again.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers**

There is currently no registered manager at the home. A new manager has been appointed to be in day-to-day charge of the home and intends to submit an application to become the registered manager once she has completed her induction period. As an interim measure, the service manager has applied to register with Ofsted.

A recommendation in relation to notification of serious events has not been met. There have been two recent incidents of a child complaining about the way staff applied physical restraint. Following one of the incidents, managers carried out an investigation prior to consultation with external safeguarding professionals. Additionally, there was a significant delay before managers notified Ofsted of the incident. This inhibited the regulator's ability to monitor the managers' response to the incident. This is now a requirement.

Managers have not made sure that the induction of new staff equips them to meet the complex needs of the children that they are looking after.

Monitoring by managers has improved in relation to the storing, administering and recording of medication. Additionally, children's medication records now include clear information about their allergies.

Minutes from staff meetings demonstrate that managers are meeting with staff regularly to discuss the priority actions staff need to take, often in response to recommendations arising from internal and external monitoring.

Managers are making sure that children have regular opportunities to discuss the way the home is run. This helps to reassure children that their views are important and that their voices are being heard.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/05/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
23/08/2021	Full	Good
15/10/2019	Full	Good
14/02/2019	Interim	Declined in 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 health and well-being standard is that—</p> <p>the health and well-being needs of children are met;</p> <p>children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that children's plans reliably inform staff how to meet children's physical and mental health needs.</p>	31 October 2022
<p>The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on—</p> <p>mutual respect and trust;</p> <p>an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and</p> <p>positive responses to other children and adults. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c))</p>	31 October 2022
<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—</p> <p>that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(b))</p> <p>Specifically, ensure that children's plans describe how to reduce the risk of safeguarding incidents happening again.</p>	31 October 2022

<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>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(c))</p> <p>This is with specific reference to making sure that the induction of new staff members includes an explanation of how to meet children's needs in line with their care plans and risk assessments.</p>	<p>31 October 2022</p>
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;</p> <p>an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>a child protection enquiry involving a child—</p> <p>is instigated; or</p> <p>concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))</p>	<p>31 October 2022</p>

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** 1256973

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

**Registered provider:** Cameron & Cooper Limited

**Registered provider address:** Accord Accountants, 191-193 High Street,  
Hampton Hill TW12 1NL

**Responsible individual:** Camilla McInnes

**Registered manager:** Post vacant

## Inspector

Helen Simmons, Social Care Inspector



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