

SC046276

Registered provider: Devon County Council

Assurance 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 and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict children's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 12 children who are aged between 10 and 17 years. There were four children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The home provides care for children accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who are placed by local authorities. 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 in dedicated facilities.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since June 2022.

Inspection date: 8 November 2022

Date of last inspection: 7 June 2022

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspectors 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 continue to benefit from good-quality care from staff, who are attentive and familiar with their needs. Children develop positive relationships with staff and make good progress.

Children's care and support plans accurately reflect their needs and most-relevant risks. Children are helped to understand the reasons why they need secure care. Direct work, which reflects children's individual needs and personal circumstances, supports children to become increasingly safe.

A well-planned mobility programme gives children opportunities to demonstrate that they are ready to spend increasing amounts of time in the community. Children have access to a wide range of activities, which allow them to fully explore their talents and interests.

The processes that are followed when children move in to and out of the home are thorough and thoughtful. Managers work closely with other professionals to create plans to ensure that children have the support they need. This approach creates the best opportunity for moves to go smoothly.

The environment is well maintained to ensure that it is as comfortable and homely as possible. The recommendation made in the last inspection about adding garden fencing to ensure children's privacy has been met.

Children are treated with dignity and respect, and their views are valued. Regular meetings are held with children, and they influence decisions about the day-to-day running of the home. However, records of these meetings could be improved to ensure that when requests cannot be met, children receive clear feedback about why this is the case.

The recommendation in relation to children's education and learning made at the full inspection in June 2022 will be considered at the next full inspection.

The safety of children

Children's safety and well-being are high priorities for staff. Staff are attuned and responsive to the risks that are present for children individually and as a group.

Staff remain resilient when managing difficult situations. Effective use of de-escalation techniques ensure that the need for physical restraint and single separation, where children are locked in an area when they meet the legal criteria of

being a significant risk to themselves or others, is kept to a minimum. Behaviour management responses are robustly scrutinised by managers to ensure that they are proportionate and appropriate.

Incidents where children are at risk of harm are rare. When concerns arise, managers take swift and decisive action to ensure the safety of children. They identify any shortfalls in practice and take steps to ensure that learning from incidents is shared with the whole staff team. This reduces the risk of a similar incident happening again. Managers notify Ofsted about all serious events.

In response to a requirement made at the last inspection, recruitment processes have been reviewed and amended. All necessary checks are carried out to ensure that adults working in the home are suitable before they commence their employment.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

Managers are ambitious and have high aspirations for children. They are deeply committed to improving children's life chances.

Meaningful joint working between the managers of the care, health and education teams ensures that children benefit from an effective wraparound service. Children's needs are assessed as soon as possible after they arrive, and the teams work closely together to ensure that children have consistently good experiences and outcomes.

There is an embedded culture of welcoming feedback from external sources. Criticisms and comments about the service are seen as an opportunity to learn, reflect and improve.

The registered manager receives effective support from senior leaders. However, a responsible individual has not been nominated.

Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 07/06/2022 | Full | Good |
| 09/02/2022 | Full | Good |
| 29/06/2021 | Interim | Sustained effectiveness |
| 03/03/2020 | 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>Fitness of registered provider.</p> <p>An organisation may only carry on a home if—</p> <p>the organisation has notified HMCI of the name, address and position in the organisation of the responsible individual.</p> <p>The requirements are that—</p> <p>the individual is of integrity and good character;</p> <p>full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2;</p> <p>the individual is mentally and physically fit to carry on the home; and</p> <p>the individual is financially fit to carry on the home.</p> <p>A responsible individual must—</p> <p>satisfy the requirements in paragraph (5)(a) to (c); and</p> <p>have the capacity, experience and skills to supervise the management of the home, or the homes, in respect of which the responsible individual is nominated.</p> <p>(Regulation 26 (4)(ii) (5)(a)(b)(c)(d) (7)(a)(b))</p> | <p>31 December 2022</p> |

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the ethos of the home supports each child to learn. In particular, leaders should produce a strategy for the development of English and mathematics across all parts of the curriculum. They should deliver a staff development programme that supports its implementation so that children improve their English and mathematics skills faster and in a

consistent way. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 29, paragraph 5.18)

- The registered person should ensure that children are consulted regularly on their views about the home's care, to inform and support continued improvement in the quality of care provided. Children should be able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted on. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.11)

Secure children's home details

Unique reference number: SC046276

Provision sub-type: Secure Unit

Registered provider: Devon County Council

Registered provider address: County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QD

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Helen Bowkett

Inspectors

Helen Simmons, Social Care Inspector
Debbie Holder, 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 children looked after, 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.

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 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.

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
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022