

1246834

Registered provider: The Amicus Community (Arundel) Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is part of an independent children's therapeutic community which is accredited by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. It provides care for up to five children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2012.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 November 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 1 March 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/03/2022	Full	Good
29/01/2020	Full	Good
16/10/2018	Full	Good
18/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

Staff work hard to form positive relationships with the children and to provide them with the appropriate level of affection to help them to know people care about them.

All children attend school and are making academic progress. Two children were recently nominated for an award arranged by their local authority. This achievement has been proudly celebrated.

All children are healthy and are encouraged to make healthy choices. Staff have managed to support one child to attend an appointment with an optician. This has been a significant achievement for the child as they have struggled to attend appointments in the past.

Children are often kept away from each other because of their presenting behaviours. The registered manager explained that this is part of the therapeutic model of care applied in the home. However, records do not demonstrate this in practice.

One child recently moved into the home. This move was well planned, and consideration was given to the matching of children already living in the home. However, essential documents, such as the child's local authority care plan, are not in place. Furthermore, staff spoken to during the inspection were unable to explain the child's care plan.

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

Managers have not taken enough action to address a previous shortfall in making sure that allegations raised by children are promptly reported to Ofsted and the local authority designated officer. Consequently, the previous requirement remains unmet. For example, one child's records show that the child made an allegation against a member of staff when he was physically held. The registered manager was not able to demonstrate that the allegation was reported to the local authority designated officer and Ofsted.

On occasions, staff need to physically restrain children to keep them safe. Although staff make a record of these incidents, the details do not align with regulation. For example, staff often complete their own debriefs following a physical intervention.

Staff implement boundaries which children respect. However, on occasions, staff will lock external doors to restrict children's movements to safeguard them. However, this practice is not captured in any agreed care plan.

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

The registered manager has not ensured that systems for day-to-day monitoring and management oversight are in place. This has left shortfalls in record-keeping. The registered manager has recognised this shortfall and has a plan in place to improve this aspect of practice.

Staff feel supported by management, and supervision sessions are regular and reflective. However, some records are not clear as to whether staff have received an annual appraisal.

The home has been impacted by staff shortages. Staff feel that this has been managed well with the support of senior managers and staff from the provider's school coming into the home to cover shifts.

There are gaps in records kept for staff training. For example, records do not show that all staff have attended safeguarding training and completed all their mandatory training.

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 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 staff—</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and</p> <p>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(vi)(vii))</p>	31 January 2023
<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>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>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(c)(h))</p>	31 January 2023
<p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p>	31 January 2023

that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(c))	
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and</p> <p>any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises—</p> <p>is necessary and proportionate;</p> <p>allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(ii)(iv))</p>	30 December 2022
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—</p> <p>the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and</p> <p>within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—</p> <p>has spoken to the user about the measure; and</p> <p>has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and</p> <p>within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))</p>	31 January 2023
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(c)(e))</p>	30 December 2022

This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
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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: 1246834

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Amicus Community (Arundel) Limited

Registered provider address: Coach House, Arundel Road, Fontwell, Arundel
BN18 0SX

Responsible individual: Rebecca Newton

Registered manager: Stewart Thomson

Inspector

Sara Stoker, Social Care Inspector

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