

1246834

Registered provider: The Amicus Community (Arundel) Ltd

Assurance 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 in post since November 2022.

Inspection date: 28 February 2023

Date of last inspection: 14 November 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 have positive relationships with the staff, who nurture and care for them. There is a consistent staff team in place, and children said they can talk to staff if they are worried. Children's achievements are proudly recognised and celebrated with staff.

Children have individual link workers who they meet with regularly. These meetings are individual to the child's needs, where they can talk about their behaviour, health needs, goals and their future. There are additional opportunities for children to receive therapeutic support through one-to-one sessions with the registered manager, who is a qualified therapist.

Children's experiences are enhanced by living at the home. Children receive well-planned care from staff who know their plans well. They enjoy a wide range of activities with staff; treasure hunts are a favourite.

Children can personalise their bedrooms and the decor reflects what they like. Children were proud to show the inspector certificates displayed on their bedroom walls. However, some other areas of the home require a tidy, refresh and repair. For example, some areas of the home were cluttered, some furniture needs replacing and some walls need painting.

The safety of children

Children are safeguarded. Incidents involving children are well managed, with clear recording systems. For example, a chronology log details incidents and consequences, which children have opportunities to reflect on. This record also shows the reduction in physical interventions and the focus on achievements.

Concerns are managed effectively and are taken seriously by senior leaders. However, the home's records do not include a factual description of incidents and advice has not been sought from external professionals before the manager has concluded their review of the event.

Staff receive training specific to the needs of the children in the home and understand their safeguarding responsibilities. Children are kept safe from harm.

Leaders and managers have worked with the local authority designated officer and a child's social worker to support a detailed plan in relation to allegations that have been made. This demonstrates good partnership working, ensuring that all

safeguarding concerns are audited and examined to ensure that processes keep children safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

Leaders and managers have responded effectively to the previous requirements. They have taken action to address a previous shortfall, by making sure that allegations raised by children are promptly reported to Ofsted and the local authority designated officer.

The recently appointed home manager has a good overview of records completed by staff and makes recommendations to improve practice with the team. This is also discussed in supervision with staff, which gives them the opportunity to develop their skills.

Leaders and managers have a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the home and understand the needs of the children. There are effective monitoring systems in place. Consequently, the management team has good oversight of children's day-to-day experiences and the progress that children make.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/11/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
01/03/2022	Full	Good
29/01/2020	Full	Good
16/10/2018	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home's record of regulation 40 events includes a factual description of the serious event, the action taken and the outcome of any resulting investigation. This is in relation to emotive language in reporting, and decisions to conclude investigations into serious events before seeking advice. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.14)
- The registered person should provide a children's home that is a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of their children. Children's homes must comply with relevant health and safety legislations; however, in doing so, homes should seek as far as possible to maintain a domestic impression. This is in relation to the front of the home, redecoration and keeping the home free from clutter. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1246834

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Amicus Community (Arundel) Ltd

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

Responsible individual: Rebecca Newton

Registered manager: Stewart Thomson

Inspector

Hannah Cox, 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 2023