

1257065

Hampshire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and run by a local authority. It is registered to provide care for up to five children with social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the visit, two children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2020.

Inspection date: 4 May 2023

This monitoring visit

Following a monitoring visit on 23 March 2023, compliance notices were issued in respect of regulation 12, the protection of children standard, and regulation 14, the care planning standard. In addition, a restriction of accommodation notice was issued.

The purpose of this monitoring visit was to monitor compliance with these notices.

Care planning processes are not sufficiently robust. One child moving on from the home did not have the opportunity to discuss their wishes and views. There was a lack of thoughtful planning which meant that the child experienced an unnecessary level of uncertainty about where they would be moving to. As a result, the child did not leave the home in a way that gave them a positive ending to their placement.

Staff and managers have failed to implement effective strategies to reduce the risk of significant incidents. Consequently, there have been three fire-starting incidents in the home and the grounds. In one example, cigarette lighters had not been removed from children. During the visit, managers took steps to address this.

The quality of risk assessments, and associated risk-management strategies, is poor. Managers do not ensure that risk assessments have sufficient detail to address known risks. As a result of this weakness, staff, particularly agency staff, are

unaware of all the risks to children and therefore cannot make informed decisions about how to keep them safe.

Senior managers instructed staff to carry out searches of children's bedrooms to ensure that they were not in possession of objects which could pose a risk. Staff failed to carry out the searches, and managers failed to ensure that this safety measure had been implemented. Consequently, children were able to continue to display behaviour which had the potential to be seriously harmful to people and to the home.

In the absence of an operational manager in day-to-day charge of the home, staff report that inconsistent leadership has led to a lack of purpose and direction. This has had a negative impact on the quality of care provided to children.

Management monitoring has been insufficient to identify and address the shortfalls found during this monitoring visit. Additionally, there has been a failure to notify Ofsted of serious events. This limits the regulator's ability to monitor the management response to incidents which have placed children at risk of harm.

At a case review following this visit, a decision was made to issue further compliance notices in relation to regulation 12 and regulation 14. A further compliance notice was issued under regulation 13, the leadership and management standard. The restriction of accommodation notice remains in place.

Requirements and recommendations raised at the previous full inspection were reviewed at this visit and are restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/01/2023	Full	Good
23/11/2021	Full	Outstanding
14/01/2020	Full	Good
20/03/2019	Full	Outstanding

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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iv))</p>	30 June 2023
<p>The enjoyment and achievement standard is that children take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, cultural, intellectual, physical and social interests and skills.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff help each child to—</p> <p>develop the child's interests and hobbies;</p> <p>participate in activities that the child enjoys and which meet and expand the child's interests and preferences; and</p> <p>that each child has access to a range of activities that enable the child to pursue the child's interests and hobbies. (Regulation 9 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(b))</p>	30 June 2023
<p>* The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p>	4 June 2023

<p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child’s relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child;</p> <p>help each child to understand how to keep safe;</p> <p>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</p> <p>manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other;</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child’s welfare; and</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)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(b))</p>	
<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 work as a team where appropriate;</p> <p>ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;</p>	<p>04 June 2023</p>

<p>ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child;</p> <p>understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home;</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a) (2)(b)(c)(e)(f)(h))</p> <p>This is with specific reference to ensuring that management monitoring and scrutiny of the home is of a consistently high standard so that managers have a well-rounded view of the experiences of the children and the impact that the care is having on their outcomes.</p>	
<p>* The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that arrangements are in place to—</p> <p>manage and review the placement of each child in the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(b) (2)(b)(ii))</p>	4 June 2023
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(b))</p>	30 June 2023

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff know the importance of children understanding who they are and where they come from, and help children to understand their history by undertaking life-story work or other direct work. Staff

should play a full role in work of this kind. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.14)

- The registered person should notify Ofsted and other relevant persons if one of the situations specified in regulation 40(4)(a)-(d) occurs, or if there is an incident relating to the protection, safeguarding or welfare of a child living in the home which the registered person considers to be serious. In particular, the registered person should report all serious incidents to the appropriate professionals. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.10)
- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. In particular, they should ensure that all information is up to date and relevant to the current risk-management and care planning. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1257065

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hampshire County Council

Registered provider address: Hampshire Council, 3rd Floor, Elizabeth II Court North, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG

Responsible individual: John Stacey

Registered manager: Vincent White

Inspector

Jill Sephton-Wright, Social Care Inspector

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