

1246831

Registered provider: Beaufort Care Group Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private provider that has several other homes in the area. The home provides care for up to three children. There were three children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in February 2023.

Inspection dates: 22 and 23 August 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 10 August 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/08/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/06/2021	Full	Good
20/01/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
06/08/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children enjoy living in this home. They form positive relationships with staff and enjoy spending time with them. Children and staff enjoy playing games in the garden together, baking or taking trips to the beach. Staff identify opportunities for children to explore their interests, such as music and art, in creative ways outside of the home. Children's views are central to the home. Staff have regular discussions with children about how they feel about living in the home, its management and the other residents. Staff offer children close support to manage their relationships with each other, promoting positive interactions. Staff take photos and write about the positive memories they have shared with children. Some of these are sent to an email account for each child, with physical books made too. However, staff do not always keep collections of memories up to date. This risks information getting lost and means children cannot look back over their time in the home as they wish.

Children living in this home make progress. One child has achieved a long-standing goal of attending the dentist. This child has also started meeting with a professional to explore their emotional health. The child discusses these sessions with staff in the home, who help them begin to understand their own emotions. Another child has started to safely spend more time out with friends in the community. Two children attend school. The manager forges close links with schools to share information that will help the children make the most of their learning opportunities. The manager explores options and interests for the third child, working with the local authority to ensure that suitable support is in place.

Parents speak positively about the home and the support their children receive. They say that they cannot fault the home. They see their children making progress and experiencing good support from staff. They say that communication is good and helps them know what is going on in their children's lives.

The home's decor is welcoming and homely. The manager has introduced soft furnishings and decorative items to improve the overall feel of the home. Children's bedrooms reflect their individual interests and personal tastes. Children receive support from staff to keep their bedrooms clean and tidy. There are window restrictors fitted to some windows. The manager has not reviewed their use and how relevant they are to the children currently living in the home. Action was taken during the inspection to remove these.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

A consistent and stable staff team develops positive relationships with children. This means children trust staff and see them as safe adults. The children in this home sometimes experience frustrations with each other. Staff quickly intervene and support children to defuse any situations. Staff then use their strong relationships to explore incidents with children in an open and reflective way.

Staff understand and identify potential safeguarding concerns. Children speak with staff about their lives, which means they can identify areas of risk. Staff take action to keep children safe. They speak with children about concerns at the earliest opportunity, meaning risks do not escalate.

One child has stopped smoking cigarettes. However, they now use an electronic vape. Staff understand how they will address this concern with the child and over time, there have been changes to this child's use, showing some successes. Staff provide children with good support when there are worries about self-harming behaviour. Staff help children to develop alternative coping strategies and engage with relevant professionals.

Restraint has been used in this home, and the frequency is reducing. The use of restraint was necessary to keep children safe during serious incidents. The manager speaks with staff after incidents to help them explore what they could do differently and to reflect on the incident. The child is spoken to, and their experience of the restraint is sought.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

An experienced manager leads a consistent staff team well. The manager has led significant changes in the home, improving the quality of care and the environment. Staff feel supported in their role and speak positively of the changes the manager has instigated in the home. Staff receive regular supervision and opportunities for training, including sessions relating to the specific needs of children in the home. Staff recruitment is mostly safe; however, for one member of staff, a gap in employment was not identified and explored. This was rectified during the inspection.

Staff show confidence and proficiency when speaking about children. They know what they need to do to help children achieve and make progress. This skill is reflected in the records that they write about children. The manager maintains good oversight of what staff do. This means he identifies areas for learning and development and is able to proactively plan for children's care. However, children's behaviour plans overly focus on risk, and there is an unhelpful overlap between documents. The organisation is aware of this shortfall and has plans to change these documents post-inspection.

The manager develops positive working relationships with professionals. He builds the network around children and holds other professionals to account, escalating concerns when necessary. One child's social worker provided feedback for the inspection. They identify that their child is forming positive relationships with staff and that safeguarding concerns are addressed and followed up.

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

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The 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.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that a review of the use of window restrictors is undertaken and that risk assessments are updated if their use is required for specific children's needs. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- The registered person should ensure that they seek an explanation for any employment gaps during the recruitment process. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)
- The registered person should ensure that written plans and documents about children's care are streamlined and contain relevant information to help staff support children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure that children's memory books are kept up to date. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.5)

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: 1246831

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Beaufort Care Group Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 2 Hollygrove Business Park, Verwood Road, Ringwood, Dorset BH24 2DB

Responsible individual: Amanda Goodenough

Registered manager: Karl Welch

Inspector

Clare Nixon, Social Care Inspector

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