

SC035518

Seashell Trust

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to 24 children with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and/or sensory impairment. Children live in six houses on a site that includes a school and college. Most children attend the on-site school. The inspectors only inspected the social care provision at this school.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2023.

Inspection date: 13 June 2024

This monitoring visit

This home was judged inadequate on 7 May 2024. Inspectors identified poor practice in relation to safeguarding and ineffective leadership and management. Following the full inspection, two compliance notices were issued under section 22a of the Care Standards Act 2000. These were in relation to Regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and Regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard).

An urgent condition was also imposed to reduce the number of children the home may provide care for to 12.

This visit took place to review the actions taken by the registered provider to meet the two compliance notices issued at the last inspection.

Inspectors found that staffing levels have improved. Since the last inspection, new staff have been recruited. Leaders have utilised staff from the school provision and short-break setting to provide further support.

Agency staff continue to work in the houses. However, they now take part in an induction before starting their shift to ensure that they have all the information

about the children's needs. There is also a cohort of consistent agency staff who work across the houses.

All staff have received training in line with children's individual needs, such as gastrostomy, asthma and adrenal crisis management.

The manager has worked closely with the responsible individual to improve the home's documents and management systems. Documents have been reviewed and updated and include detailed information and effective strategies for staff to follow.

Improvements have been made to children's records, including risk management and behaviour support plans. Key information that had been missing at the time of the last visit is now captured in children's plans.

The management team has implemented a new shift induction and handover. This is helping staff to understand the children's needs. Furthermore, Leaders and managers have increased their visibility across the houses. This enables them to observe practice and share information during the handover process.

Leaders and managers have developed a new supervision format, and a tracker system is now in place. Agency staff now also receive supervision. All supervision contracts have been reviewed to ensure that staff understand their roles and responsibilities. The new format enables the manager to review and evaluate any gaps in training and helps staff to reflect on their practice.

Staff are positive about the training they have received and the increased staffing levels and training. They talked about the changes in the systems in the home and managers' expectations. Inspectors observed children in a calm and relaxed environment.

The requirements raised at the previous inspection were not considered during this visit. These will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/07/2023	Full	Good
15/11/2022	Full	Good
01/12/2021	Full	Good
18/02/2020	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, 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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff—</p> <p>if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority’s or a relevant person’s performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child’s needs are met in accordance with the child’s relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c))</p> <p>This specifically relates to continuing efforts to obtain children’s local authority plans and education, health and care plans.</p>	28 June 2024
<p>The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>understand the children’s home’s overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—</p> <p>meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a) (2)(c)(i))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that: the ceiling is attended to in the home; door cracks are addressed; the display board in a child’s bedroom is suitably fixed; marks on walls and skirting boards are removed.</p>	28 June 2024
<p>The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children’s home.</p>	28 June 2024

<p>In particular the registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>medicines kept in the home are stored in a secure place so as to prevent any child from having unsupervised access to them;</p> <p>medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(a)(b))</p> <p>The registered provider must ensure that the high number of medication errors reduces.</p>	
<p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>undertake appropriate continuing professional development;</p> <p>receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and</p> <p>have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)(c))</p>	28 June 2024
<p>The registered person must maintain records (“case records”) for each child which—</p> <p>include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child;</p> <p>are kept up to date; and</p> <p>are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that all children’s case records are up to date and accurate.</p>	28 June 2024
<p>Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children’s home.</p> <p>The registered person must—</p> <p>maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4;</p> <p>ensure that the records are kept up to date; and</p>	28 June 2024

<p>retain the records for at least 15 years from the date of the last entry. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c))</p> <p>This specifically relates to having a roster that accurately reflects all staff's working hours, including where managers have covered on shift.</p>	
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;</p> <p>an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>a child protection enquiry involving a child—</p> <p>is instigated; or</p> <p>concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))</p>	<p>28 June 2024</p>

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that there is a workforce development plan in place that includes details about the frequency of supervision and how the manager will manage poor performance. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.8)

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: SC035518

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Responsible individual: Bernadette White

Registered manager: Benjamin Bainbridge

Inspectors

Judith Birchall, Social Care Inspector

Jennifer Quest, Social Care Inspector

Sarah Jackson, Social Care Inspector

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