

# 2671361

Registered provider: Solent Child Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to two children who have experienced trauma and who have social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered in May 2024.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home.

For the purpose of this report, staff are referred to as adults, which is part of the ethos of this home.

### Inspection dates: 20 and 21 February 2024

**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:** 8 June 2022

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/06/2022	Full	Good

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

There is a lot of playfulness and laughter in this home. It is immediately clear that young children live in the home. Their toys, interests and photographs are reflected in the environment, giving them a sense of belonging. Their bedrooms are full of items that they love, and adults have taken account of their views when decorating their bedrooms. One child rated the home ten out of ten.

Adults have helped the children to make good progress in many aspects including their education. Adults used their creativity to make learning enjoyable for one child who was home schooled for a short period. This child enthusiastically returned to school within a short time frame. Adults have offered good support to enable another child to attend a mainstream school.

The children's health and emotional well-being are prioritised by adults. Children attend specialist appointments, and this has given adults and other professionals greater insight into their needs. Adults use creative tools to help the children understand and name their feelings. One child shares their feelings via a visual aid based on their favourite book.

The children benefit from clear routines and boundaries, which provide them with predictability and consistency. Adults make efforts to ensure that routines are personalised for each child, for example acknowledging that one child only eats specific foods at lunchtime. The children like the fact that adults know their preferences as it makes them feel heard and valued.

The registered manager is committed to ensuring that the children spend time with people who matter to them. They promote family time, but they also take account of the children's wishes and feelings. Adults have helped the children to maintain relationships with friends in the local community. They arrange playdates so that the children can spend time together.

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

The organisation prides itself on being trauma- and therapeutically informed. Managers and adults have a good understanding of the children's lived experiences, needs and vulnerabilities. They are curious about how these influence the children's thought processes and behaviours.

Adults are helping the children with their emotional and social development, knowing that this will benefit their relationships with people in the future. They set clear expectations in relation to behaviour, and they teach the children about this using age-appropriate language, such as talking to them about kind words and hands.

When the children show behaviours that demonstrate their distress, most adults respond appropriately and use interventions that help settle the children, such as showing empathy and curiosity and using distraction. Other adults, who have now left the home, were lacking in these skills. For one child, this resulted in avoidable and sometimes disproportionate use of physical interventions.

In most instances, the registered manager identified shortfalls in adults practice and took swift action to address this. They escalated the patterns they identified to the responsible individual, and the organisation's induction training has been changed. Now, new employees will attend training on therapeutic interventions within the first two weeks of joining the home.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The registered manager and the deputy manager are nurturing in their approach, and they model this to their team. Despite their leadership roles, they make time for the children, and the children enjoy and seek out their company.

The registered manager is committed to strengthening their understanding of the children's needs. They have advocated for the children to have specialist health assessments so that adults, and other professionals, have a better understanding of factors that influence their presentation and behaviour.

Adults spoke fondly about working in the home and said that they feel supported. This is positive, since the team has experienced some change. For example, the former registered manager is now the responsible individual. The current registered manager stepped into their role in April 2023. The transition has been seamless for the children and adults.

The registered manager has quickly identified shortfalls in practice. They responded appropriately using supervision and performance management to highlight and monitor practice concerns. Management oversight could be strengthened in some respects, for example by reviewing proportionality of restraint and keeping a record of allegations that are not sustained or substantiated.

## 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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<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>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)(b) (2)(f)(h))</p> <p>In particular, the registered manager must review whether physical interventions are proportionate. They should also improve recording in information they share with the local authority.</p>	<p>23 May 2024</p>

### 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:** 2671361

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Solent Child Care Limited

**Registered provider address:** 9 St Georges Yard, Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey  
GU9 7LW

**Responsible individual:** Kirsty Sheppard

**Registered manager:** Sarah Savine

## Inspector

Tara Webb, social care regulatory inspector

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Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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