

1230415

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and is registered to provide care for up to four children who experience social and emotional difficulties. At the time of this inspection, three children were living in the home. One child was spoken with during the inspection.

A suitably qualified and experienced manager is in post

Inspection date: 30 January 2025

Date of last inspection: 16 July 2024

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.

The inspector has 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.

One child has moved into the home since the last inspection. The child's experience was positive and was well planned by the manager. Another child has moved on from the home. While this happened quickly because the staff could no longer keep them safe, the child's ending was positive. The child said goodbye to everyone at the home, and they were supported to visit their new home to meet the staff.

Relationships in the home are positive. One child said they feel safe, and they identify staff and managers as trusted people in their life. This helps children to feel secure.

Staff understand their responsibilities to protect children. The quality of children's plans and risk assessments is much improved. This helps staff to understand the risk that children face and manage them consistently.

Incidents are managed well using a nurturing and therapeutic approach. The manager scrutinises all incidents to identify any learning, which is shared with staff to improve children's experiences. Staff talk to children to help them manage their feelings and emotions. They also have important conversations with children to help them make safer life choices and take responsibility for their actions. This is proving positive as incidents have reduced.

Children are making progress from their starting points. A strength of the home is the support given to children to gain important life skills as they prepare for adulthood. This includes preparing meals, washing their clothes and practical skills such as changing a fuse in a plug.

Children's cultural needs are well considered and supported. Staff care for one child's hair particularly well. This is supporting the child to maintain their sense of identity, and the child is growing in confidence.

Aspects of the home environment have improved. The bathroom has been refurbished and is a lovely space for the children to use. However, more work still needs to be done to ensure that the home is a nice place for children to live. Refurbishment and repairs are ongoing, and a clear plan is in place to address the shortfalls. However, these works are not yet complete, and some areas need immediate attention. The carpet in a child's bedroom needs to be replaced, two damp patches need to be repaired and a fence panel in the garden is broken and needs to be fixed.

Children rarely go missing from home. Clear protocols are in place, and when this happens, staff are proactive in searching for the child. When children return, staff talk to them about their experiences. Effective liaison with safeguarding partners, such as the police, contributes to the children's safety.

Complaints are taken seriously and are responded to well. When one child complained about their peer's behaviour towards them, their concerns were listened to and promptly addressed. Child-friendly feedback was given to the child. This shows children are listened to.

The manager is supported by a deputy manager. They want the best for children, and together they make an effective team. Leadership of the home is also strengthened by the appointment of a new quality manager.

Staff feel supported, and the manager ensures that staff complete all of the training that they need to meet children's needs.

Management monitoring tools and reviewing systems are improved. There is clear evidence of thorough management oversight across all areas of the home. This helps the manager to understand the strengths of the home and areas for development and continually learn.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
03/01/2024	Full	Good
22/02/2023	Full	Good
17/11/2021	Full	Good

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 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>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children’s needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>protect and promote each child’s welfare;</p> <p>provide personalised care that meets each child’s needs, as recorded in the child’s relevant plans, taking account of the child’s background;</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; and</p> <p>enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(ii)(iv)(i))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that the home is well maintained and is a nice place for children to live. All of the actions in the home’s environmental development plan must be completed. Two damp patches in the home must be repaired, the carpet in one child’s bedroom must be replaced and the fence panel in the garden must be fixed.</p> <p>This requirement is restated.</p>	<p>28 March 2025</p>

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1230415

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Responsible individual: Mark O'Donnell

Registered manager: Ionna Thompson

Inspector

Amy Richards, Social Care Inspector

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