

1235576

Registered provider: South West Childcare Services

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider and offers care for up to two children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, there was one child living in the home. The inspector spoke with this child.

There is a vacancy for a registered manager. The provider has appointed a new manager, and they have submitted an application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 13 November 2025

Date of last inspection: 6 May 2025

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.

There have been changes in the management of the home and staff team since the last inspection. The registered manager has left the organisation, and the home was supported in the interim by an experienced registered manager from a nearby home. A permanent manager has now been appointed and has submitted an application to register with Ofsted.

Since the last inspection, a child has moved out. The child's move was planned, and they moved to another home within the organisation, which was better suited to their needs. The provider has not moved another child in in order to allow a period of stability for the current child and the staff team.

Staff have a good understanding of the needs of the child and work hard to build trusting relationships. The child has responded to this by beginning to express their feelings through words and poems. With the child's agreement, some of these poems have been sensitively turned into artwork, which is displayed in the home. The child said that 'staff do a good job' and 'it's better here now; it feels different'.

Staff ensure that the child has a healthy routine. Staff involve the child with shopping and cooking and support healthy, informed decisions. However, more needs to be done to ensure that there are clearer expectations around vaping.

The child is kept safe and there have been very few incidents for staff to manage. Staff respond calmly to the child's distress and use a trauma-informed approach to understanding behaviour. As a result, the child is able to better understand their emotions and responses to others.

Staff understand the importance of family time and the child is able to have unsupervised time away from the home with their friends and loved ones. Staff take an age-appropriate and balanced approach to unsupervised time and demonstrate professional curiosity to explore any concerns. This has encouraged the child to be open and honest with staff, which helps to minimise risk.

The education plan for the current child is not meeting their needs. Leaders and managers have taken steps to challenge this with the wider network. However, more needs to be done by staff to ensure that consistent messages are given to the child about their engagement with educational activities.

Staff speak positively about the changes that have taken place in the home. Supervision sessions and team meetings take place regularly and offer staff the opportunity to reflect on their own practice.

Allegations and complaints are responded to in a timely manner and thoroughly investigated. Leaders and managers have taken action to address poor practice, and this has resulted in some staff leaving and new staff being recruited. Professional feedback has been positive, particularly in relation to recent changes.

There have been substantial improvements to the home environment, including the child's bedroom. The décor and furniture in the home have been modernised, and the child has been involved in various DIY projects. The child's bedroom is now personalised, and the child talked about how 'happy' they are with the changes.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/05/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
21/08/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/11/2023	Full	Good
07/02/2023	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.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1235576

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: South West Childcare Services

Registered provider address: Maybrook House, Third Floor, Queensway,
Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4AH

Responsible individual: Lucy King

Registered manager: Virginia Taylor

Inspector

Stacey Pellow, Social Care Inspector

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