

1237582

Registered provider: Rochdale Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by the local authority and is registered to provide care for up to four children. The home's statement of purpose states it offers care to children on a short-term basis, alongside outreach support services.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2024.

At the time of this inspection, two children were living at the home. The inspector spoke to both children.

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 January 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 25 February 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/02/2025	Full	Good
10/10/2023	Full	Outstanding
19/07/2022	Full	Good
08/03/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive good-quality care that supports them to make progress from their individual starting points. Staff know children well and understand the impact of previous life experiences on their behaviour and emotional wellbeing. As a result, children feel valued, listened to and cared for.

Relationships between staff and children are warm and trusting. Children benefit from being cared for by staff who are engaging and emotionally available. One child said, 'They [the staff] are really warm, they make you feel comfortable and welcome.' Staff respect children's wishes and actively involve them in decisions about their lives wherever possible.

Alongside support and practical skills, staff play with children. They take them on activities such as long bike rides and swimming; they involve them in cooking and baking at the home. Special trips are arranged such as one child's 'bucket list' wish to go zip wiring in the Snowdonia mountains. Children have fun with staff.

Staff provide purposeful and creative individual sessions through play that help children explore their emotions, reflect on past experiences and develop coping strategies. This work is effective and contributes to improved emotional understanding and safer choices.

Staff work sensitively with children and professionals to prepare children for moves into and out of the home. Outcomes for children are positive. Several children have successfully transitioned to longer term placements following their time at the home, reflecting the stability and quality of care they experienced.

Children's experiences are occasionally affected by the complexity of peer relationships. Some children's behaviours have an emotional impact on others living at the home which has led to some retaliation and bullying.

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

Staff take their safeguarding responsibilities seriously. They work proactively with children to help them understand risk and develop safer behaviours. There has been an overall reduction in risk. Children go missing from home less frequently and serious incidents have reduced, despite the complexity of children's needs and behaviours.

Staff respond promptly when children are at risk. They work closely with partner agencies and provide children with reassurance and support following incidents. Children generally feel safe and protected.

Children's voices are represented in risk assessments. These assessments reflect children's views and identify individual risks and protective factors. However, staff practice is not always consistent. For example, some staff do not consistently follow agreed missing from home procedures. Management oversight does not always identify this promptly.

During a short period over the summer, challenges arising from group dynamics led to an increase in incidents. Leaders recognised this promptly and took action to stabilise the home and reduce risk.

Following incidents involving self-harm, aggression or significant damage to property where children have been physically restrained to keep them safe. Staff debriefs and notifications to relevant professionals are not always clearly evidenced. Children are kept safe in practice, but the written records do not always reflect how this has been achieved.

One child left the home via a bedroom window during the night and staff were not aware. Leaders responded appropriately and introduced measures which prevented further such incidents. On another occasion, children accessed the staff office overnight while staff were asleep. The manager has developed a plan to prevent this from happening again, but this is not yet embedded in practice.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager demonstrates commitment to children and to continuous improvement. They manage the day-to-day running of the home effectively and use a range of quality-assurance tools, including audits, observations and performance monitoring, to reflect on practice.

During a challenging period at the home, management oversight was in place but not recorded consistently. The manager recognises this and has since strengthened systems to improve consistency, oversight and accountability. These actions are beginning to have a positive impact.

Staff receive regular, reflective supervision that supports their development and emotional resilience. Appraisals are established and contribute to staff development. Team meetings take place regularly and focus on relevant themes relating to children and practice. These forums provide opportunities for staff to reflect, share learning and develop skills.

Professionals speak positively about the home. They describe staff as child centred and communicative. One professional said, 'It's a nice place to live, it feels like a home.' Professionals value staff's trauma informed approach and willingness to challenge constructively. Positive partnership working supports children's stability and progress.

Some training records are not consistently complete or up to date. This does not ensure that leaders can always demonstrate that all staff are competent in key areas. This limits assurance of staff skills.

Leaders do not always ensure that children are compatible with each other before accepting a new child to come and live at the home. Incompatible placements have contributed to periods of instability for children. The referral pathway and information required from referrers has now been changed, this has increased the information that the manager has about a child before they make a decision about admission.

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
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff consistently follow the children's risk assessments. The registered person must ensure that the home is arranged in such a way that the staff can have a greater awareness of children movements at nighttime.	27 February 2026
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust;	27 February 2026

an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—

that staff—

help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child's behaviour, in accordance with the child's age and understanding;

help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone;

communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding;

help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child's age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful;

help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship;

understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable;

have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them; and

that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others.

(Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c)
(2)(a)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(xii)(xiii)(b))

The registered person must ensure that any incidents of bullying, racism or homophobia are followed up with consistent and targeted direct work and that measures are in place to prevent this.

The registered person must ensure that—

27 February 2026

the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure;

within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")—

has spoken to the user about the measure; and

has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and

within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.

(Regulation 35 (3)(a)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))

In particular, the registered person must ensure that when physical intervention has been used, the record is reviewed, and any shortfalls are identified.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, particularly in ensuring that all team members have completed the training tracker. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)

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: 1237582

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU

Responsible individual: Abu Siddique

Registered manager: Courtney Smith

Inspector

Cathy Wilkins, Social Care Inspector

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