

1240801

Registered provider: Inspire Children's Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. It offers care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties and/or may have learning disabilities.

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

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2023.

Inspection dates: 12 and 13 August 2025

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: 16 April 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/04/2024	Full	Good
16/05/2023	Full	Good
08/11/2022	Full	Good
23/03/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, two children have remained living in the home, and two children have moved out. One child has moved into another of the organisation's homes, and one child has returned to the care of their family. Leaders and managers carefully consider the needs of all children when moving children into and out of the home. Decisions are made in children's best interests. Children who move on from the home are offered continued support to ensure a smooth transition.

Both children were spoken to as part of the inspection. Children spoke positively of staff, and the home was filled with positivity and laughter. Staff and children spend time together, both in the home and in the community. Children are offered regular activities which are in line with their interests. One child had recently enjoyed a trip away to a caravan park, spending time going on bike rides with staff and visiting funfairs. This supports staff in developing positive relationships with children.

Children make progress in education. There has been a significant improvement in children's attendance at school. The manager and staff team work closely with children's schools and the virtual school team to support them in accessing education. When there have been delays in an appropriate educational provision being provided for children, the manager has acted as an advocate for them.

Children's health needs are met. Staff ensure that children attend their health appointments and have access to wider support agencies to ensure their needs are promoted, for example mental health services or drug and alcohol services. Staff spent time with one child to explain a therapeutic service that was on offer to them. This helped the child understand the benefits of this support and helped them to make informed choices about their care. However, children's health plans are not regularly updated with all relevant information. This does not support staff in monitoring the children's health needs.

Staff encourage children to be a part of their care planning and ensure they have access to advocacy services. For one child, this has meant that they attended their recent care review and that their time with their family has increased.

The home is warm and welcoming in its appearance. Children have been able to personalise their rooms, and they are actively involved in planning for the decor of the rest of the home. This provides children with a sense of ownership and belonging.

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

Staff know children well and understand their risks.

Staff respond well to incidents of self-harm. Children are offered empathy and reassurance. Staff provide first aid and seek further medical advice and support when necessary. The consistent response of the staff team has supported children in opening up about their feelings.

When there are concerns for children being absent or missing from the home, staff are proactive in ensuring their welfare. Staff search for children, contact their family and friends, and follow protocols to report them missing. One child was absent from the home as they chose to return to the care of their family. Staff worked closely with the child's family, the local authority, and wider support services to plan for the child's safety. The positive relationship staff had built with the child's family meant that they were able to provide daily support, which contributed to the child being able to successfully return to their family's care.

There is a clear plan in place for monitoring children's online safety. When there are known risks to children online, daily device checks are put in place. This strategy has been effective in preventing safeguarding incidents for children.

Allegations and complaints made by children are taken seriously. Leaders and managers explore concerns and involve relevant professionals to ensure they are working transparently. Children receive a formal response from the manager. This lets children know that their voices are heard.

Children's risk assessments and behaviour support plans include strategies and interventions which are personalised to the children's needs. However, risk assessments do not always have up-to-date information or clear guidance for staff to follow for children's time out of the home. This does not support staff in safeguarding children.

There have been no physical interventions for children since the last inspection and there has been a reduction in incidents within the home. However, there are some missed opportunities for staff to de-escalate incidents through understanding and exploring children's feelings and behaviours. The manager is aware of this as a learning need and has identified further training for the staff team.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is an experienced and enthusiastic manager in post. The manager has a positive relationship with the children and knows them well. The manager has implemented monitoring and review systems. This helps them to have a clear understanding of current risks and progress made by children.

There is a positive dynamic in the home and the staff team work well together. Staff speak highly of the leadership team. They say that they feel well supported and enjoy their roles. One member of staff said that leaders and managers 'always give you a voice' and they valued being able to contribute their views to the children's care. Staff receive regular supervision. This provides staff with opportunities to reflect on their practice and identify areas for development. The manager also holds regular team meetings, which are used as a learning opportunity. The manager will cover workshops on relevant topics and invite external professionals to enhance staff's knowledge around the children's needs and behaviours.

The manager has a good understanding of the children's day-to-day care and is actively involved in exploring any safeguarding concerns. Although there is clear management oversight across children's records, staff's recording in incident records is inconsistent. The manager does not always highlight this. This limits the effectiveness of the manager's evaluation of incidents and opportunities to improve staff practice.

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; 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)(b)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children's care plans and risk management plans contain accurate, up-to date information for staff to follow.	9 October 2025
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; 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—	9 October 2025

meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans; 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; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children; de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(v)(ix)(xi)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that staff have the knowledge and skills to understand and explore children's experiences and behaviours in order to de-escalate incidents effectively.	
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1)(b)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that recording in children's incident records is accurate and includes all relevant information.	9 October 2025

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: 1240801

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Inspire Children's Services Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 3, Craig Court, Standish Street, St Helens WA10 1GJ

Responsible individual: Michael Bradshaw

Registered manager: Bradley Ashurst

Inspector

Hayley Smith, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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