

1241939

Registered provider: Island Choices Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is one of three homes operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care for up to three children. At the time of the inspection, three children were living in the home.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since July 2021.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 December 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: 18 March 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/03/2025	Full	Outstanding
03/01/2024	Full	Good
28/03/2023	Full	Good
24/03/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are happy. One child described the staff as 'good and really kind'.

Children are making progress towards meeting their individual goals. For example, a child with communication needs is improving how they express themselves and can now share their wishes and feelings with staff. Another child has developed life skills that helped them secure employment during the summer. As a result, children build confidence, independence and sense of achievement.

Children are generally healthy, with their physical and mental health needs well supported. They are supported to maintain a healthy lifestyle and staff pay close attention to each child's wellbeing. For example, one child who had been misusing drugs has greatly reduced their use and is now engaging with mental health support. Consequently, children feel cared for and gain the confidence to make better choices for their future.

Children are supported to take part in education. One child who had been struggling to attend school is now attending full time. Another child, while not yet in full-time education, has increased the hours they attend. During the inspection, they were able to go on a day they had not managed before. This shows the positive impact of the home's consistent routines and encouragement, helping children re-engage with learning, build confidence, and make steady educational progress.

Children's views are listened to and respected. They help make choices about their daily routines, meals, and how their rooms are decorated. One child's wish to travel abroad was fulfilled, giving them their first holiday abroad, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Staff also encourage and support children to take part in statutory meetings, so they are involved in decisions about their lives. As a result, children feel valued, knowing their voices truly matter.

Children enjoy warm, positive relationships with staff, who are caring, attentive and responsive to their needs. Staff encourage and model respectful, kind interactions, helping children build friendships with their peers. During the inspection, staff and children were seen playing together and having relaxed conversations. This creates a welcoming and supportive environment, which boosts children's confidence, emotional wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Children take part in many fun activities they choose, such as gaming, cinema, gym, spa days and football matches. Children also attend clubs which include a football club and a youth club. Staff also help parents and carers access activities with children. This makes children feel happy, connected and supported.

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

Safeguarding processes are clear and transparent. The registered manager and staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and work together effectively with other professionals. Safeguarding is discussed regularly in meetings to provide consistent training and development for staff.

Staff provide personalised support for children who experience difficulties with mental health or self-regulation. They work closely with specialist services to implement recommended strategies and use structured discussions to help children reflect. As a result, children develop greater confidence in managing their emotions and engage more positively with staff.

Staff take proactive steps to reduce risks by holding open and honest discussions with children about healthy relationships and potential dangers. Children are encouraged to share concerns safely. As a result, children are empowered to make safer choices, and develop greater awareness of risks, which is necessary to sustain positive and healthy relationships.

Children rarely go missing. When they do go missing staff follow clear, child-focused missing person protocols, and work collaboratively with relevant agencies to ensure that children are safe. Children are supported on their return home, with emotionally supportive discussions about their actions and they are educated about risks. This helps build trust and accountability.

Children are mostly supported to access the internet safely. However, for one child, the boundaries have not been consistent from when the child moved in. As a result, this placed their safety online at risk.

Children are supported and encouraged to become independent through everyday self-care and life skills. One child is now able to confidently use public transport and attend job interviews independently. In readiness for adulthood, the child has developed personal finance skills, which enabled them to purchase their own motorbike.

When incidents occur, they are managed promptly and safely. Staff provide emotional support to children, and explore what led to the behaviour, to better understand how to best support children. The registered manager reviews all incidents to ensure that practice is safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by a registered manager who knows the staff and children well. She leads by example to support and develop the staff team. The manager is actively involved in the children's day-to-day care. The manager and staff have high aspirations for each child and work hard to help children to enjoy their childhoods.

The registered manager strives to ensure that each child's needs are met to a high standard. She advocates for children and is tenacious in her support and maintains a child-focused ethos in her decision-making. This has led to more collaborative support from professionals involved in supporting children.

The registered manager spends one-to-one time with each child to get to know the children and build meaningful relationships with them. She does this while engaging in activities that each child enjoys. Therefore, she can make informed decisions about their care.

Leaders and managers admitted a child whose needs were not in line with the home's registration and statement of purpose. Making sure that admissions are in line with the home's statement of purpose helps protect children's wellbeing and ensures they all get the care and support they need to thrive.

Supervision takes place regularly and staff feel supported by the registered manager. They commend the registered manager for being passionate, empathetic and focused on meeting children's individual needs. One staff member described the manager as a 'great manager'.

The manager values staff. Consequently, this has created a culture of support within the home where staff welfare is promoted to ensure that children receive the best care.

Working collaboratively with external professionals and parents is a key strength of the registered manager. Feedback is highly positive about communication with the home, with one parent describing staff and the manager as 'absolutely amazing'. A professional attributed children's progress to staff being highly proactive in their support for children.

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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a))	6 July 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that there are clear and consistent safeguarding measures in place regarding children's internet use from the time they move in. This should be in line with the child's level of understanding. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 29, paragraph 5.9)

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: 1241939

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Island Choices Ltd

Registered provider address: East Quay, Kite Hill, Wootton Bridge, Ryde PO33 4LA

Responsible individual: William Stanbridge

Registered manager: Bernadette Spurling

Inspector

Chido Mangava, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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