

# 1244117

Registered provider: Caldecott Foundation Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a charitable organisation. It provides care for up to five children who may have social and emotional difficulties. Three children were living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2025. This manager also manages another setting.

### Inspection dates: 18 to 19 June 2025

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account | <b>good</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

|                                                             |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| How well children and young people are helped and protected | good |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|

|                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------------|------|
| The effectiveness of leaders and managers | good |
|-------------------------------------------|------|

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 14 January 2025

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 14/01/2025      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 07/03/2024      | Full            | Outstanding                     |
| 28/02/2023      | Full            | Good                            |
| 22/03/2022      | Full            | Good                            |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Children's overall experiences and progress are good. An education professional said, 'We are pleased to note the progress this pupil has made since living at the home. They generally appear happy and settled, and the supportive environment the home team provide is appreciated.' A social worker said the child has made a lot of progress since being cared for in the home.

Staff recognise the value of continued family relationships for children. They support children to spend time with family where it is safe to do so. This helps children to maintain important family relationships and promotes their identity. Records of family time sessions are not always written in detail.

Children enjoy being able to access a range of activities and experiences. This helps them to develop confidence and social skills. Children each have a 'positive book' which staff write in every day. They add photos to remind them of the things they have enjoyed doing. Professionals say that staff help children engage in various activities outside of school.

Children are well supported to engage with school. Overall, staff work well with education, and advocate for children when attending education meetings. One child did not attend school prior to moving into this home. They are now attending regularly and are making good progress.

Staff support children to share their wishes, feelings and views in planned and unplanned discussions. Children are well supported with their emotional well-being through regular access to a service linked to the home.

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

Children's risk assessments are detailed. Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs. Preventative and supportive measures are reflected in the plans, which staff can use when they are helping children to feel safe. An independent reviewing officer said, '[child's name] can sometimes require physical interventions, but these are appropriate and in line with their needs and done in the least restrictive manner overall.'

Incident reports are detailed and help understand what happened for all involved. Both children and staff are supported afterwards with their emotional well-being. Physical intervention is used as a last resort. There are clear plans in place to support children develop strategies to help them manage their emotions more effectively and reduce physical interventions.

If children make allegations, the manager takes prompt and appropriate action. Investigations are carried out quickly and thoroughly. External professionals are

informed by the manager and staff, and plans are put in place to ensure that children are helped to feel safe and listened to.

The location safety review does not consider the most up to date local crime information. It does not consult with professionals. This impacts staff knowledge about managing risks in the local area.

Serious incidents are not always shared with the regulator in a timely manner. It restricts and delays Ofsted's ability to evaluate how well children are safeguarded at the home.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The manager is experienced and passionate about positive outcomes for children. Although new in post, they are committed to continue improving the care provided to children. The manager is verbally reflective about practice and driven to continue supporting staff development.

Monitoring and oversight of the functioning of the home by the manager is evident. This includes positive reflection and critical evaluation of staff practice. This approach enables the manager to continually evaluate the care and support given to children. As a result, staff are supported to improve their skills.

Team meetings are now held more frequently. Staff feel well supported and describe the manager as approachable. One member of staff commented that team communication has improved.

Staff now receive regular professional supervision sessions. There is a clear agenda which includes discussion about children and their needs, the team, and staff's individual support needs. Reflective discussion is promoted, and areas for staff development are explored with appropriate actions set as a result.

Staff have access to a range of training courses. However, not all staff are up to date with their training. The home is properly staffed, however, there is use of agency staff while there is ongoing recruitment. This impacts on staff accessing the updated training sessions required. There is no workforce development plan. This means the skills and qualifications of staff cannot be clearly demonstrated.

## 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, 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 registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.<br/>(Regulation 40(c)(e))</p> | 15 August 2025 |

### Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure the location risk assessment contains up to date crime information and consultation with professionals. ('Guide to Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.1)
- The registered person should have a workforce plan which sets out the workforce related requirements of regulation 16, schedule 1 (paragraphs 19 and 20). ('Guide to Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.8)
- The registered person should ensure that all records are kept up to date. They should also ensure there is consistent use of child-focused language. ('Guide to Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 624, paragraph 14.4)

### 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:** 1244117

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Caldecott Foundation Limited

**Registered provider address:** Caldecott House, Hythe Road, Smeeth, ASHFORD Kent TN25 6SP

**Responsible individual:** Kevin Gore

**Registered manager:** Teresa Elce

## Inspector

Kathryn Hurley, Social Care Inspector

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