

1256660

Registered provider: Pathways Care Group Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to 4 children with learning disabilities and complex social and emotional needs. This is one of several children's homes operated by this private provider.

Three children were living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The previous manager left his role in November 2025. The current manager has applied to register with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 5 and 6 March 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: 12 December 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/12/2024	Full	Outstanding
01/08/2023	Full	Good
18/10/2022	Full	Good
03/06/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The inspector saw all of the children and spoke with 2 children. No children have moved in since the last inspection. When one child moved on from the home, the manager ensured that this was done in a carefully planned way to ensure a positive ending. Staff helped the child visit their new home. The manager ensured that information was shared effectively to help the new home understand the child and their needs.

The staff know the children well. The children are well cared for and make good progress due to the help and support of staff. Children learn to share with their peers and begin to take responsibility for their actions. Staff recognise and celebrate the progress the children make. This helps children to build a strong sense of personal achievement.

Staff spend good-quality time with the children inside and outside of the home. Children enjoy positive experiences and group activities, such as trips to the local cinema, indoor trampoline parks and the beach.

Staff support children to develop their talents and interests outside of the home. They take pride in children's successes, celebrating sporting achievements and the development of new skills in creative activities, such as baking and crafts.

Staff are ambitious for the children and support their educational progress well. Delays from external professionals in completing assessments mean that some children's needs are not yet fully identified and understood. Staff proactively challenge external agencies to secure necessary support and work closely with schools to mitigate the impact of these delays on children's academic development.

Staff support children with their health and wellbeing. They ensure that the children attend regular health appointments. They help children to be more independent with their personal hygiene and self-care.

The home is undergoing some structural and material changes. Staff listen to children's wishes about these and make areas safe for the children to live comfortably. However, delays in completing some minor repairs mean the home does not always maintain a homely feel.

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

No children have gone missing from the home since the last inspection. Staff have forged trusting relationships with the children, which enable them to talk to staff when they are upset or distressed.

When children use unkind language toward their peers, staff intervene promptly to provide support. They use planned discussions to help children reflect on their actions and understand the impact of their words on others. Staff help the children develop more positive social interactions and rebuild fractured relationships.

Staff use physical intervention only when necessary to manage risk and maintain safety. Staff respond professionally to tricky situations. They prioritise de-escalation approaches by using 'change of face' and distraction techniques to help children regulate their emotions and return to a calm state.

Staff use individual planned conversations effectively to promote children's safety and wellbeing. They use these opportunities to strengthen children's understanding of safe relationships and provide practical guidance on managing risks online. As a result, children are more aware of how to keep themselves safe in different environments.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The previous registered manager has been promoted to the responsible individual role. The new manager was previously the deputy manager. This seamless change has provided consistency for both children and staff. The current leadership structure ensures a strong, consistent leadership and clear accountability. This in turn ensures that good standards of care are maintained. The manager has applied to register with Ofsted and is studying a relevant management qualification.

Staff feel well supported through the management changes. Leaders and managers invest in staff development and support. Managers promote staff internally in the home. Staff say they have grown more confident since the last inspection.

Staff supervision sessions are reflective and held regularly. Managers also hold reflective appraisals with staff. Staff feel comfortable with speaking about things that are important to them. The manager makes sure that staff have the necessary training, equipping them with the skills to support the children effectively. They arrange service-specific training for staff to further upskill them. Managers monitor to ensure that new staff are booked onto and attend relevant training sessions.

Team meetings are well attended and incorporate the staff and children's views. This helps all people in the home feel listened to. When staff and children share any concerns, managers listen and address those concerns promptly.

Managers challenge decisions made that are not in children's best interests. They actively chase updates from placing authorities. When they are not happy with the responses from other professionals, such as social care or education, managers take this further to more senior figures in the local authority. On occasion, this has included raising issues with their local MP.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the children's home is a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of the children and is a homely, domestic and well-maintained environment. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: 1256660

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Pathways Care Group Limited

Registered provider address: Minton Place, Victoria Street, Windsor SL4 1EG

Responsible individual: Piotr Dembowski

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Dan Williams, 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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