

2483881

Registered provider: Ivie Lodge Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run home that can care for up to 3 children with social and emotional needs.

The home is led by a registered manager.

Since the last inspection, the same 3 children remain living at the home. The inspector spoke with 2 of the 3 children during the inspection.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 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: 10 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/09/2024	Full	Outstanding
04/07/2023	Full	Good
09/08/2022	Full	Good
19/10/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The children receive very individualised care, and the staff have a good understanding of their needs. However, children's experiences of living in the home vary. One child reported feeling happy and enjoying trusting, meaningful relationships with staff, while another child does not feel well cared for.

Children are supported to pursue their individual hobbies and interests, including activities such as badminton and guitar lessons. They also take part in holidays with staff to destinations abroad and at home. These opportunities broaden children's experiences and help to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Staff meet children's health needs well. The manager and staff are strong advocates and ensure that children receive the necessary health assessments and treatments. For example, one child requires surgery to reduce health risks, and the manager has been instrumental in securing a date for the procedure.

Some children make positive progress in their education, considering their individual starting points. For example, one child has achieved well in English and mathematics examinations and continues to make steady progress across other subjects. Staff adopt creative and flexible approaches to supporting home learning. For one child who is currently out of education, they are being encouraged to complete work from home and will engage with this on occasion.

Children are supported to maintain relationships with those who are important to them. Where family dynamics have been fragile, staff have supported children to rebuild and strengthen their relationships. For some children, this has meant increased time with family and improved relationships.

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

Staff take effective action to keep children safe. Risk management plans are reviewed regularly and in collaboration with key professionals, including social workers. Staff use the least restrictive measures to reduce risks and promote children's welfare.

Staff respond well when children go missing from the home. They actively search for children and provide effective support on their return. Staff maintain good communication with relevant professionals, including the police and social workers. They work to understand the reasons behind each incident so they can tailor support and reduce risks. For one child, this approach has led to the child no longer going missing from the home.

Children know how to complain. Children's concerns and allegations are taken seriously. Relevant agencies are informed, such as the local authority designated officer and

Ofsted. Investigations are undertaken where necessary and children receive a written response from the manager, helping them to feel heard and valued.

Staff respond promptly and effectively when children are in distress. They hold regular, purposeful discussions with children to help them understand how to keep themselves safe. Staff also support children to recognise and manage their feelings, helping them to develop strategies for coping with strong emotions. For one child, this has contributed to a reduction in self-injurious behaviour.

There are systems in place to ensure staff are safe to work at the home. However, not all checks are undertaken robustly. For example, there are unexplained employment gaps for one member of staff.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is a strong advocate for children. She has high aspirations for children and appropriately challenges agencies to secure the right support. Staff feel well supported by her and they admire her leadership.

Staff receive training to meet children's individual needs, including autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The home's counsellor contributes to team meetings, further strengthening staff skills. However, not all staff are up to date with core training. For example, 6 members of staff are not up to date with the home's safeguarding training, and several have not achieved the required qualification within regulatory timescales.

A stable staff team provides children with consistent and reliable care. Staff demonstrate resilience and have sustained children's placements through significant challenges. For children who have experienced multiple previous moves, the home has offered their first experience of genuine stability and enduring relationships, which positively enhances their life chances. However, some records about children contain institutional language, which does not reflect the individualised, child-centred practice expected.

The manager has positive relationships with other professionals, such as social workers and the police. She communicates well and works effectively in collaboration with others. Feedback from stakeholders, children and staff is routinely gathered and used to inform service development.

The manager has strong oversight of the home. Effective quality assurance and monitoring systems are in place. Internal and external audits are routinely completed. Any shortfalls are quickly addressed, and learning is used to improve the service. The manager sets high expectations for staff, and any areas of poor practice are promptly addressed. However, the home's statement of purpose is out of date as it does not reflect the current management structure.

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
For the purposes of paragraph 3(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ('the Level 3 Diploma'); or a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home; or in the case of an individual who was working in a care role in a home on 1st April 2014, 1st April 2016. (Regulation 32 (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)(b)) This particularly refers to ensuring that all staff are completing the relevant training to work in residential care.	30 June 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person is responsible for maintaining good employment practice. They must ensure that recruitment, supervision and performance management of staff safeguard children and minimise potential risks to them. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)
- The registered person should ensure that information about the child is recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

- The registered person should ensure that they develop and keep under review a 'Statement of Purpose' (regulation 16 and schedule 1). ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)
- The registered person should ensure that skills in safeguarding are gained and refreshed. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.12)

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: 2483881

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Ivie Lodge Limited

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor, 9 Portland Street, Manchester M1 3BE

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Nkeiruka Onyia

Inspector

Emma Dacres, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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