

2495375

Registered provider: St Christopher's Fellowship

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to care for up to nine children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home was registered with Ofsted in November 2018 and is run by a voluntary organisation in partnership with a local authority.

At the time of the inspection, there were four children living in the home. All of the children were present at the home, and the inspector spoke with them briefly.

Inspection date: 18 November 2025

Date of last inspection: 18 June 2025

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Leaders and managers have responded to the outcome of the last inspection and have taken actions to address the concerns raised. As a priority, they have ensured that staff have the skills and experience needed to provide good care to the children who are living in the home.

All staff have recently received training on caring for children who may self-harm. Ligature scissors have been purchased for the home. However, staff have not yet completed training on how to use them. The training on self-harm is yet to be embedded in practice, with some staff members not following risk assessments and not ensuring that children who are at risk of self-harm have no access to sharp objects.

Children's health and education needs are prioritised. Health and education professionals visit the home to ensure that children receive the appropriate support when they are not engaging in education or attending health appointments.

Children have also received support from the fire service to understand the importance of fire safety and to encourage them to engage in fire drills. Repairs have been completed to the home, including fixing the front door to ensure children's safety.

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's sensory needs. For example, one child struggled in the summer heat. Staff made temporary adaptations to their room to ensure that the child was able to stay cool while staying safe. A safety plan remains in place. This ensures that the child is not overstimulated or distressed. However, safety planning is not always consistent. For example, one child leaves the home in the early hours of the morning, and there was no evidence of a suitable safety plan being in place.

When incidents occur, staff confidently use de-escalation techniques, ensuring that children are responded to with sensitivity. Leaders and managers understand the need for children to have growing autonomy, and they support them to understand how to stay safe. Leaders and managers work effectively with partner agencies to ensure that, when children are spending time with friends for longer periods, suitable arrangements are in place to ensure their safety. They work collaboratively with partner agencies to ensure that all checks are undertaken and that welfare visits take place. Professionals' meetings are requested when required.

Leaders and managers acknowledge that staff turnover is a challenge, and they have a recruitment strategy to address this. However, there have been a few occasions when staff have been lone working at the home and when there has been

an insufficient number of staff on shifts. Leaders and managers have recognised that this should not occur.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/06/2025	Full	Good
13/08/2024	Full	Good
03/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
25/04/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff skills for safeguarding include being able to identify signs that children may be at risk, and that they support children in strategies to manage and reduce any risks. Staff should encourage children to express their views about whether they feel safe, both within and outside the home. Staff should support children to understand how to ask for help to stay safe and that the home is an environment which supports this. In particular, the registered person should ensure that staff receive training on how to use the ligature scissors and that children have safety plans in place when required. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 43, paragraph 9.10)
- The registered person should ensure that contingency plans are prepared in the event of a shortfall in staffing levels. If it is likely that there might only be one member of staff on duty at any time, the manager should make a formal assessment of the implications for children's care, including any likely risks. This assessment should be recorded and available for inspection by Ofsted and placing authorities. The registered person should also ensure that staffing levels meet the needs of children and that they can respond flexibly to unexpected events or opportunities. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 54, paragraphs 10.15 and 10.18)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2495375

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: St Christopher's Fellowship

Registered provider address: St. Christopher's Fellowship, 1 Putney High Street,
London SW15 1SZ

Responsible individual: Laverne Cole

Registered manager: Denine Nwajiobi Deacon

Inspector

Angela Reid, Social Care Inspector

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