

2526004

Registered provider: Homes for Support Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private organisation. The home provides care for up to six children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, six children were living at the home. Five children spoke to the inspectors.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2023.

Inspection dates: 29 to 30 September 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: 4 February 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/02/2025	Full	Good
19/03/2024	Full	Good
20/03/2023	Full	Outstanding
01/03/2022	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children moving in and out of the home are well supported. Staff work collaboratively with professionals to support transition plans. Staff involve children already living at the home when making decisions about new children moving in. Children moving into the home and their families are encouraged and supported to visit the home and meet staff before the move. This helps children settle in and feel safe.

Children's health needs are well met. Staff ensure that when children have allergies, this information is shared with others when required. Children are encouraged to attend health appointments and receive additional medical treatment when required. Staff respond to children appropriately when they are injured. They administer first aid and seek further medical attention when necessary.

The manager ensures that the home is well maintained, reporting any damage or wear and tear to the in-house maintenance team for repairs and refurbishment. The children's bedrooms are comfy, and they have everything they need. Children are encouraged to take responsibility and pride in their bedrooms. However, staff do not always check children's bedrooms to ensure that any potentially hazardous items, such as lighters, are removed.

Children are encouraged to share their views and develop independence. Children and staff meet weekly to talk about plans and activities for the upcoming week. Children are involved in meal planning, learning how to budget for food and are supported to complete household tasks. Staff ensure that children are well prepared when they move to live independently.

Staff understand the importance of education for children. Children who are not in education are encouraged to learn at home. The manager effectively challenges professionals to ensure that children's learning needs are fully considered so that the right educational provision is identified. One child's social worker said, 'Although [the child] has not been here long, we have already seen significant progress. School attendance has improved.'

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

When children go missing from home, staff respond in a timely and appropriate manner. Staff liaise with professionals, such as the police and social workers, and inform the children's families when they are missing. Staff follow missing-from-home risk assessments and are proactive in searching and trying to locate children to bring them home safely. Children are welcomed back into the home, and staff are curious about the reasons why they go missing and where they have been.

Staff ensure that children are provided with clear routines and boundaries. They spend time with children to help them understand appropriate behaviours. Staff use reward charts, incentives and consequences for unwanted behaviour. Consequences are fair and proportionate.

Children are only held as a last resort and to keep them safe. When children are held, the least restrictive intervention is used. Children and staff are offered debriefs following the use of physical intervention. The manager has good oversight of all physical interventions, which are evaluative and reflective. However, details about the duration of holds and the actions staff have taken to reduce the duration are unclear.

Children are educated about risk. Staff talk to children about risk-taking behaviours and how to keep themselves safe. Children's risk assessments are clear and specific to their individual needs and identified risks. They cover a range of risk-taking behaviours and provide clear details about the actions staff should take to reduce risk.

Children have positive relationships with the staff. They can identify staff they can talk to and are able to raise any worries without the fear of being judged. When children make a complaint, the manager ensures that the correct procedure is followed. Children are listened to, and complaints are thoroughly investigated in a timely manner. The outcomes of complaints are discussed with the child who made the complaint.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has a clear vision for the home and has high expectations of the staff. Staff share this vision and say that they enjoy working at the home. Staff feel well supported by the manager and the deputy manager. The manager and staff have a calm, nurturing approach. Children are provided with consistent care and stability.

The manager works collaboratively with other professionals. They ensure that any actions taken are discussed with other professionals working with the children and in line with children's care plans. However, the manager did not ensure that a risk assessment was completed following the implementation of door sensors. This did not allow for a review of the effectiveness or ongoing need to use door monitors. However, the door monitors have now been removed.

Staff receive regular supervision that is reflective and child focused. It provides a safe space for staff to discuss areas for development and any concerns. New staff are well supported through a twelve-week induction plan. The manager ensures that new staff's progress is regularly reviewed and that they complete the mandatory training and have the opportunity to reflect on their learning.

Team meetings are held regularly and well attended by staff. They provide an opportunity for the team to discuss the care provided to children, any safeguarding issues and staff development. There is an opportunity to learn from practice, and staff openly discuss areas of improvement.

The manager ensures that the home has a full staff team. Any gaps in the rota are covered by permanent staff members, where possible, or bank staff who are familiar with the home and the children. The manager organises the rota to ensure that staff work with all the children. Children and staff sit together to eat meals. The ethos of the home feels inclusive and family-like, promoting stability 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 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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if— the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children; the monitoring or surveillance is no more intrusive than necessary, having regard to the child's need for privacy. (Regulation 24 (1) (a)(d)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that there are clear assessments for the use of door sensors on children's bedroom doors and that these are reviewed regularly.	12 November 2025
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that there are appropriate measures in place to remove inappropriate and hazardous items from children's bedrooms, such as lighters and vapes.	12 November 2025
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—	12 November 2025

a description of the measure and its duration. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(iv)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that staff make clear records of the duration of the restraint.	
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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: 2526004

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Homes for Support Limited

Registered provider address: Northern House, 3 Kennerleys Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5EQ

Responsible individual: Garry Warren

Registered manager: Nicola Farrington

Inspectors

Sarah Probert, Social Care Inspector
Shauna Morley, Social Care Inspector

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