

2547847

Registered provider: Cheshire West and Chester local authority

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority (LA). It is registered to provide care for up to two children, who may be experiencing social or emotional difficulties.

There were two children living in the home at the time of this inspection. No children have moved in or out of the home since the last inspection. Both children were seen and spoken to during this inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2021.

Inspection dates: 19 and 20 March 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: 27 February 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/02/2024	Full	Good
21/02/2023	Full	Good
26/07/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is warm and welcoming, with personal touches that reflect the children's achievements and interests throughout. However, some repairs have not been completed within a reasonable timeframe. The manager has escalated this with the local authority, and most maintenance issues are now resolved. As a result, children feel comfortable and relaxed in their home.

Children trust staff. Staff get to know children well and understand their needs. Children build positive, supportive relationships with the adults caring for them.

Children's health needs are being met. When they have specific needs, such as sexual or mental health support, staff ensure they receive the specialist help that they need. Children eat a balanced, healthy diet and learn about nutritious cooking. Children are healthy and happy.

Education remains a particular challenge for both children. However, staff tirelessly advocate in their best interests. Support and planning related to their education are consistently child focused.

Staff regularly talk to children about important topics. They show a genuine interest in children's lives and experiences, prompting discussions that help children develop the skills and understanding they need to progress.

Children are having fun while learning important social skills. Both have made significant progress in their social development; one child recently went on a trip with the Scouts, while the other enjoyed a sleepover with a friend. Staff actively support children in building positive relationships with their peers.

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

There have been few incidents since the last inspection. The home provides a calm and settled environment where children feel safe.

Children enjoy a consistent approach to behaviour support. Each child has a detailed behaviour support plan, offering clear guidance for staff. Staff know how to support children's behaviour positively. Social workers said that staff offer sensitive and compassionate care. Children receive nurturing, trauma-informed support.

Staff have had to hold children to keep them safe. This intervention has only been used as a last resort. On each occasion staff have completed important restorative work with the child to help them understand what happened and why. This approach helps to maintain children's positive relationships with staff.

Staff use rewards and incentives effectively to promote socially acceptable behaviour and recognise children's achievements.

Children rarely go missing from home. When children don't come home on time, staff know what to do, including making sure that relevant professionals are kept informed. Children are always spoken to by an independent person when they come home to try to understand what has happened. Children's risk of going missing has reduced.

Allegations are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. Children are kept informed throughout the process. Children feel listened to and valued.

Before adults come to work in the home thorough background checks are completed to make sure that children are only cared for by safe and suitable adults.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The team is led by a qualified and experienced manager. She encourages children to have high aspirations for their future. One social worker said, '[The manager] really champions what's best for [the child].' The virtual school said, '[The manager] isn't afraid to challenge plans that aren't in the children's best interests.'

Leaders and managers use systems that are effective to monitor care. They typically identify areas for improvement and take decisive action to improve the quality of care provided to children. The manager has strong oversight of staff practice, offering constructive feedback to support development. Children's voices are heard and valued by staff.

Staff feel well supported by leaders and managers. Staff said support is always available when needed. Feedback from professionals consistently highlights the manager's dedication, noting that she goes above and beyond and prioritises the best interests of the children in her care.

The manager keeps the premises risk assessment under regular review to ensure that the location of the home remains suitable.

Staff receive regular, useful training in relation to the needs of the children they are looking after. Staff develop a better understanding of children's complex needs and have the skills to provide good quality care.

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: 2547847

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Cheshire West & Chester Council, The Portal, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 0BA

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Laura Wright

Inspector

Nicola Shaw, Social Care Inspector

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