

2567607

Registered provider: Almond Care Children's Services Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private provider. It offers care for up to 5 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, no children were living at the home.

The manager is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 11 February 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	inadequate
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	inadequate
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	inadequate
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There are serious and widespread failures that mean children are not protected or their welfare is not promoted or safeguarded. The care and experiences of children and young people are poor, and they are not making progress.

Date of last inspection: 14 October 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: Following a full inspection in October 2025, two compliance notices and a restriction of accommodation notice were issued. Progress against these notices was explored at a subsequent monitoring inspection and the restriction of accommodation notice remained in place.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/10/2025	Full	Inadequate
21/08/2024	Full	Good
14/02/2024	Full	Good
13/12/2022	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: inadequate

Home conditions are not to a sufficient standard to provide good care for children. The home needs repair and refurbishment in several areas, including communal areas and bedrooms. Managers shared that there are concerns about possible subsidence at the home and this has led to cracks along the walls and ceilings of several rooms. Managers said that they no longer feel that the home's layout is suitable or workable as a children's home. A request to voluntarily cancel the registration of the home was received during the inspection.

Managers have acknowledged the need for more robust planning for when children move to the home. Processes for referrals and children's care plans have been reviewed and are now child centred.

No children have lived at the home since the last inspection. The restriction notice in place has been adhered to. The provider was unable to provide evidence to demonstrate that the previous requirements under Regulations 8 and 11 have been met.

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

The fire risk assessment was undertaken in December 2025. This identified several actions required in order that the home be a safe place for children to live. These actions have not been completed and remain outstanding.

The responsible individual understands the importance of reflective practice. Although training on this topic has begun across the provider group, it has not yet been delivered to all staff who previously worked at this home. However, staff have been offered learning circles regarding areas for improvement that were identified at this home.

One staff member was supported to specifically reflect on their historical involvement in a medication error and learn from this.

Staff shared that they have felt well supported by managers to reflect on their experiences while working at the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: inadequate

There is no staff team currently working at the home, meaning there is insufficient staffing to care for any children. Consequently, staff have not had supervisions or team meetings led by the manager during the inspection period.

Written audits that were completed since the last inspection do not include reflection or learning on prior incidents at the home. The responsible individual was unable to provide

evidence of her retrospective monitoring and how this has informed planned changes to the services offered to children.

A new manager has been appointed to the home and has applied to register with Ofsted. However, the manager has not received supervision from the responsible individual since the last inspection. Informal discussions have taken place with another senior manager but have not been documented, which has resulted in the manager's omission to complete mandatory training within planned timescales going unacknowledged.

The report on the review of the quality of care has been submitted and contains clear actions for staff to take in order to improve practice. However, the report does not provide a record of appropriate reflection on the quality of care offered to children who previously lived at the home.

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
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(f)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that the care delivered in the home aligns with the home's statement of purpose, that staff receive regular and good-quality supervision	23 March 2026

and that there are appropriate staffing levels to meet the conditions of registration. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
A responsible individual must— have the capacity, experience and skills to supervise the management of the home, or the homes, in respect of which the responsible individual is nominated. (Regulation 26 (7)(b)) In particular, the responsible individual must ensure that there are clear auditing systems in place for the oversight of the home. The responsible individual must support in reflection following safeguarding concerns at the home. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	23 March 2026
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)) In particular, the responsible individual must ensure that processes for assessing that children's needs are compatible with children already living in the home are robust, and that staff have the skills and experiences to meet the needs of children coming to live at the home. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	23 March 2026
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—	23 March 2026

that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(viii)(b)(e)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff act in a way that prioritises the safety of children and that records of incidents are clear, detailed and demonstrate management oversight, reflection and learning. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff—	23 March 2026

help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; that each child has access to appropriate equipment, facilities and resources to support the child's learning. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff have clear plans regarding the children's education and that children not in school have good daily routines that encourage a return to learning. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding;	23 March 2026

are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same; (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(v)(x)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff are supported to develop meaningful relationships with children and are consistent in addressing children's behaviour. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; and a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)(c)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff understand and adhere to agreed medicine administration processes. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	23 March 2026
If the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005(30) applies to the home— the registered person must ensure that the requirements of that Order and any regulations made under it, except for article 23 (duties of employees), are complied with in respect of the home. (Regulation 25 (2)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that the required actions in the fire risk assessment are completed.	23 March 2026

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: 2567607

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Almond Care Children's Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Almond Care Ltd, 4 Barling Way, Nuneaton CV10 7RH

Responsible individual: Julia Senah

Registered manager: Vacant

Inspectors

Louise Copping, Social Care Inspector
Terrienne George, Social Care Inspector

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