

2569520

Registered provider: Lavender Grove Cares Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to 2 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since July 2025.

The registered provider has recently appointed a new responsible individual, and we are currently checking this person has the relevant capacity, experience and skills to carry out the role.

Inspection date: 7 April 2026

This monitoring visit

At the last inspection on 11 February 2026, Ofsted identified serious concerns in relation to the care and protection of children and the leadership and management of the home. As a result, Ofsted served a notice to suspend registration.

This monitoring visit was undertaken to monitor whether the provider was complying with the suspension of registration in place and to review the progress made by the provider to meet the requirements set at the previous inspection. No children have lived at the home since the last inspection. The provider has complied with the suspension notice.

The company director supported this inspection as the registered manager and nominated responsible individual did not attend.

Leadership and management arrangements at the home are unclear. The previous responsible individual has resigned. The current registered manager, while currently continuing to manage the home, has resigned from their post. They have submitted a voluntary cancellation of their registration to Ofsted.

A new responsible individual has been appointed and commenced her role. However, senior leaders have not completed all safer recruitment checks specified by regulation to ensure her suitability. Furthermore, they have not demonstrated that they have undertaken suitable checks to assure themselves of suitability of skills or experience.

Leaders and managers have failed to take action to address the shortfalls raised at the last inspection. Arrangements for monitoring and oversight have not been reviewed, revised or strengthened. Leaders and managers have not identified or implemented systems to support better recording, monitoring or the identifying of learning to improve practice.

Leaders and managers have not brought in improvements to ensure that safeguarding arrangements protect children from harm.

Leaders and managers have not clearly defined an induction protocol for agency staff to ensure they understand their role and the needs of the children to help keep them safe.

Leaders and managers have not demonstrated how they have assured themselves that staff have the skills and knowledge to safely care for children. Staff do not have the skills and experience to keep children safe. Staff have not completed further training to ensure they demonstrate the curiosity, compassion and skills necessary to care for children.

The requirements from the last inspection are not met and are therefore restated. A further requirement in relation to the safe recruitment of staff is also set. The recommendation made at the last full inspection was not reviewed as part of this visit.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/04/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/04/2024	Full	Good
20/04/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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 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 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; and 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)(vii)(b)(e))	19 May 2026

In particular, the manager should ensure that staff understand their roles in safeguarding children and make effective arrangements to protect children from harm. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— 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; 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)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(f)(h)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	19 May 2026
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles.	19 May 2026

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— understand the child’s health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child’s health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child’s age and understanding; take part in activities, and attend any appointments, for the purpose of meeting the child’s health and well-being needs; and understand and develop skills to promote the child’s well-being; that each child has access to such dental, medical, nursing, psychiatric and psychological advice, treatment and other services as the child may require. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(ii)(iii)(iv)(c)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children’s safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children’s home; or if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform;	28 April 2026

full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2.	
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(Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(b)(d))	
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Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the home maintains a domestic rather than 'institutional' environment. In particular, additional security items such as door alarms should only be used when there is an assessed need. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.9)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2569520

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lavender Grove Cares Limited

Registered provider address: Gothic Cottage, Moreton Road, Ongar CM5 0EZ

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Hayley Hatcher

Inspector

Lexi Mitchell, Social Care Inspector

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