

2576409

Registered provider: Compass Children's Homes Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care for up to six children with complex social and emotional needs.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 14 February 2025.

Five children were present at the time of the inspection. Three children present were happy to take part in the inspection.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 June 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: 17 December 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/12/2024	Full	Outstanding
21/02/2024	Full	Outstanding
07/03/2023	Full	Outstanding
22/02/2022	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of the inspection, there were five children living in the home. Two children have been living in the home for three years and another child has lived in the home for over a year. The other two children moved in prior to the last inspection in December 2024. One child has recently moved out of the home.

Since the last inspection, one child, who lived at the home for over three years, has moved to live independently. Staff ensured the child had a positive ending to their time at the home, taking them on holiday and having a goodbye meal. Staff supported them on the day of the move and have remained in contact to ensure the child maintains a sense of belonging.

Staff ensure that children's physical health needs are met. Children are registered with local health services and attend appointments when needed. In addition, staff have good understanding of children's additional health needs and they advocate for children to receive the appropriate level of support. The home has an appointed psychologist who provides regular one-to-one and group support for children around targeted subjects. Sessions remain available to children whether they choose to attend or not. This approach helps children's emotional health improve over time.

Children are supported to make progress in education. Two children have excellent attendance and another child has completed an apprenticeship with a local professional football team and will be soon sitting their GCSE exams. Another child is due to start a college course in photography. Staff work closely with school staff. For one child, they have aligned approaches used in the home and at school, which has helped the child to settle and make progress.

Staff ensure children have positive time with their families. They understand the importance of children maintaining their identity and having positive experiences with loved ones. This also helps children maintain support networks that they will need when the time comes to leave the home. However, staff recognise when family time is having a negative impact on children and work alongside professionals and family members to develop plans to ensure visits remain a positive experience.

Children are supported to make a positive contribution to the community. Two children have recently taken part in charitable events to raise money for their selected charities. Children are also supported to develop social skills through attending activities and social events. Staff capture these moments with photos and display them around the home. Children also have storybooks which capture their journey throughout their time living in the home. This approach ensures that children are provided with a strong sense of belonging.

The environment has not been well maintained, with some areas being damaged and in need of decoration. Although leaders and managers have identified these shortfalls, there have been delays to maintenance work being completed. This has compromised children having access to a warm and homely environment and children said the damage caused to the home had impacted on their day-to-day experiences.

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

Staff have a good understanding of the risks to children and behaviours that they present. They work with the appointed psychologist to consider children's individual circumstances and past experiences and use this understanding when developing their plans. This ensures appropriate protocols are in place which are individual to children and helps staff know how to respond effectively to keep children safe.

There have been four allegations made by children since the last inspection. On each occasion, leaders and managers have responded effectively. They listen to children and make swift decisions to ensure their immediate safety. Managers share information and work closely with safeguarding professionals. Where allegations require further investigation, these are completed, and appropriate action is taken to safeguard children.

Staff use a variety of de-escalation strategies to help children manage their emotions. However, on several occasions it has been necessary for staff to use physical interventions to keep children and others safe. The use of restraint is proportionate, and it is only used as a last resort. Additionally, leaders and managers ensure that staff and children are spoken to afterwards. This provides staff with an opportunity to reflect, learn and develop their practice.

Incidents between children are rare. However, on one occasion when an incident did occur, staff managed it well. Staff remained present throughout and used strategies to redirect children's attention and prevent further escalation. Children were given the opportunity to speak about and reflect on the incident afterwards and staff provided guidance around positive peer relationships.

Leaders and managers take effective action to assess and manage risks for children. When there has been evidence of risks about fire-setting, managers have taken appropriate action to reduce these. The child was educated around the dangers of fire by the local fire safety officer and a suitable risk assessment was implemented to ensure clear guidance for staff.

Recruitment checks are not always appropriate. Appropriate checks have not been completed in relation to a temporary member of staff working in the home. Their reason for leaving previous roles working with children were not verified and leaders and managers failed to identify or follow up on this.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is child focused and committed to making sure children have positive experiences. She has remained working on shift while being responsible for the day-to-day running of the home to ensure consistency and stability for children during a challenging period. This has been possible due to the positive support she receives from senior leaders. In addition, she has good understanding of the home's strengths and areas of development and is clear about what is needed to ensure the quality of care is maintained or improved for children.

Managers provide a supportive environment for staff, through daily support, advice and guidance. Effective supervision and debriefs encourage staff to use reflective approaches to assess how they can improve their practice. Furthermore, managers ensure specific training is in place for staff to enhance their knowledge, understanding and skills to meet children's individual needs. This includes delivering research-based learning developed by the appointed psychologist.

There have been significant challenges regarding staff turnover since the last inspection. This has led to greater dependency on temporary staff from agencies and other homes in the company. However, there has been little impact on children's experiences and progress because a core group of staff who have remained working in the home have ensured children continue to receive effective, nurturing care.

Staff are positive about working in the home. They say they benefit from the support the manager provides, that she is caring about their well-being and values the care and support they provide to children. Additionally, staff say senior managers are regularly present in the home and are approachable if advice or guidance is needed.

The manager demonstrates effective partnership working. Feedback gathered during the inspection was very positive. A professional for one child said: 'I think they are really committed to children and the resilience they show towards my child is an absolute credit to the company. In my 10 years of working in social care I think they must be one of the best placements I have ever worked with.' Another professional said: 'My child does not trust easily so the relationships they have indicates the trust [child] has in them, which is credit to the team.'

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. 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 and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) In particular, ensure that any maintenance tasks are completed without delay and that children's bedrooms are well maintained and comfortable.	23 July 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that required checks relating to previous roles working with children or vulnerable adults are completed to minimise any potential risks. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

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: 2576409

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Compass Children's Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: 3 Rayns Way, Syston, Leicester LE7 1PF

Responsible individual: James Fitchford

Registered manager: Carrie Beeston

Inspector

Carl Wilton, Social Care Inspector

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