

2592750

Registered provider: Break Charity

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This charity-run home provides care for up to 2 children who may have experienced neglect, abuse or trauma, along with family and placement breakdowns.

The manager registered with Ofsted in June 2024.

Inspection date: 10 February 2026

Date of last inspection: 28 July 2025

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

This inspection took place in response to concerns raised with Ofsted.

Although no serious and widespread concerns were identified in this inspection, further improvements are required in how staff assess and manage risk to ensure consistency across the team.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved on from the home as leaders and managers felt they were unable to effectively meet the child's needs. There are no children living at the home. The current staffing capacity is unable to provide stable and consistent care. However, recruitment processes are underway.

Leaders and managers have attended multi-agency meetings and work in partnership with professionals to ensure that children's progress and concerns are communicated promptly. Despite this, relationships with professionals have become fractious and detract from a strong focus on the child's wellbeing. This has been ongoing since July 2025. However, leaders and managers are taking steps to address this.

On occasion, the child's phone has contributed to the child being exposed to risk. The staff have dynamically risk assessed the situation and shared relevant information with partner agencies. The staff felt unsupported by the local authority's decision regarding the child's phone, and this contributed to the concerns.

Substance misuse was a known concern. Despite this, staff had not completed training on alcohol and substance misuse to ensure that they have up-to-date knowledge. Conversations were held regularly with the child regarding substance misuse and alcohol use and the effects of these on their health and wellbeing.

The child was able to partake in a range of activities suitable to their individual interests and provided opportunities to have new experiences, such as going swimming for the first time. The child was able to embrace and share their heritage by cooking food from their ethnicity and sharing it with staff. Since leaving the home, the child has attempted to return to visit.

The quality of relationships between the child and staff are variable. There have been several changes to the staff team including the use of temporary workers. The inconsistent use of staff has led to staff not always taking appropriate action. The failure to respond effectively to risks could leave children at risk of harm.

The child often identified preferred members of staff. The records indicate good relationships, with the child regularly commenting that they 'felt listened to' and that staff advocated on her behalf.

Staff have received some training to help them develop their understanding and skills. However, staff lacked knowledge regarding the implementation of a deprivation of liberty safeguard ordered by the court to keep the child safe. This contributed to diminished confidence in implementing boundaries relating to this.

Supervision sessions focused on staff wellbeing, but also discussed the needs of the child and reflection on specific incidents staff have been involved in. However, agency staff do not receive regular supervision and this needs to be addressed to enable a consistent ethos of working.

Team meetings and therapeutic group supervisions were held regularly, providing dedicated time to reflect and learn from incidents and to understand the child's presenting behaviours.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/07/2025	Full	Good
24/04/2024	Full	Good
21/06/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/12/2022	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; 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi))	20 May 2026
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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c))	20 May 2026

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2592750

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Responsible individual: Rachel Watkinson

Registered manager: Dean Mayes

Inspector

Naomi Starbuck, Social Care Inspector

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