

2599994

Registered provider: Hull City Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority. It provides care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties or a learning disability.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2024.

Inspection date: 3 July 2025

Date of last inspection: 15 April 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 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

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The child living in the home has strong and trusting relationships with staff. The team is established and committed to giving the child consistent care. Furthermore, staff speak of the child with warmth and positive regard. This has helped the child to share their worries and concerns with adults, who offer empathy and guidance.

Staff advocate for the child's wishes and needs. The manager escalates any concerns that he feels are not addressed sufficiently. This has resulted in the child accessing a more suitable education provision. In addition, activity and education plans help the child to have focus in their day-to-day arrangements.

Staff have regular conversations with the child about significant matters in their life. Staff are often sensitive in their approach and tenacious in revisiting important topics to promote the child's safety and understanding of risk. However, some records contain language that is stigmatising or blaming in nature, which is not an accurate reflection of the care offered.

The child's risk assessment and care plan are robust and provide information about their risks and complex vulnerabilities. Risk planning is discussed in regular team meetings and staff are instructed to read risk assessments. However, there is a lack of evidence of staff having read and understood plans. This prevents the manager from being assured that staff have the right information to maintain consistent safeguarding strategies. On a couple of occasions, casual staff did not follow parts of the safety plan, which led to an avoidable incident.

The manager works effectively with external professionals and ensures that all members of the care team are regularly updated. He maintains close links with the child's social worker to effectively review and assess risk. Risk management meetings take place regularly. Although this has not led to a reduction in the child's risks, it ensures that multi-agency intervention considers the child's changing needs.

When serious incidents occur, the manager notifies all relevant professionals, including Ofsted. However, notifications made to the regulator sometimes lack detail about how incidents are responded to, including strategies to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future. This prevents the regulator from having a full overview of the actions taken to safeguard the child.

The home is tidy and clean. However, parts of the home are in need of maintenance and redecoration. In addition, the loft hatch outside of the child's bedroom is locked with large hasps and padlocks. This gives an industrial impression and detracts from the homely environment.

Most requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection have been met. However, the manager has not reviewed the policies for the protection of children to ensure that they include information about whistle-blowing.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/04/2025	Full	Good
12/08/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/04/2024	Full	Inadequate
08/08/2023	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 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— ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(e)(h)) In particular, the manager must assure himself that staff have read and understood risk management plans.	28 August 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that as part of the policies for protection of children, they include information about whistle-blowing, with clear procedures for how a staff member should report to an appropriate authority any concern they have about a child within the home being either at risk of, or already experiencing, significant harm. The policy should reflect the principles set out in the Francis review 'Freedom to speak up'. In particular, ensure that information is shared with partner agencies, such as the police. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.15) This recommendation has been restated.
- The registered person should ensure that staff record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

- The registered person should notify Ofsted if there is an incident relating to the protection, safeguarding or welfare of a child living in the home that the registered person considers to be serious. The notification should clearly describe the actions being taken to safeguard the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.10)
- The registered person should ensure that the home provides the child with a homely, domestic environment. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2599994

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hull City Council

Registered provider address: Kingston upon Hull City Council, The Guildhall,
Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AA

Responsible individual: Michael Boddy

Registered manager: Jordan Hornby

Inspector

Mark Cryer, Social Care Inspector

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