

2599994

Registered provider: Hull City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a local authority. It provides care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties and have learning disabilities.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home. The inspector spoke with the child.

The manager is new to the home and is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 22 and 23 April 2026

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: 15 April 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

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

Summary of findings

The child living at the home has complex needs and is not currently in education. The staff working with the child are consistent role models in their life, which has led to them making progress from their starting point. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and take appropriate action when needed. Staff know the child well and use their relationship to respond with clear boundaries, which has resulted in a reduction in incidents. Since the last inspection, there have been changes in management oversight. Some management oversight shortfalls have been identified, and some significant incidents have not been reported to Ofsted. The home requires some repair and redecoration.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff's relationships with the child are meaningful and caring. Positive interactions were observed during the inspection, with the child responding accordingly to staff. Staff provide sensitive, non-judgemental and nurturing support to the child during difficult times, which allows the child to speak openly about their experiences. This also helps staff reinforce boundaries and engage in difficult conversations with the child that could otherwise lead to an escalation in behaviour.

Staff sensitively encourage the child to make healthier lifestyle choices, including managing their weight and improving physical fitness. Through encouragement, fun activities and guided meal planning, staff help the child understand the benefits of a balanced diet and regular exercise. This has resulted in the child developing new practical skills needed to take responsibility for their long-term health and wellbeing.

The child is healthy, and staff support them in attending routine medical appointments. Staff carry out one-to-one sessions with the child around key health issues, including sexual health and contraception. This helps the child consider their long-term sexual health needs.

The child's bedroom is personalised with their belongings. The home is homely and has photos of the child on display. The child has pets, which they take good care of, creating a homely environment. However, there are areas of the home that need maintenance and redecoration. The loft hatch outside of the child's bedroom is locked with large hasps and padlocks, which detracts from the homely environment. There are plans in place to address these issues, but work has not yet started.

The child's journey through education is unstable. Currently, the child will not attend college. The plans in place do not support the child's progress in education, and attendance arrangements are ineffective.

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

Staff demonstrate professional curiosity by noticing and acting on subtle indicators of risk, such as writing found in the child's bedroom. They explored its significance, leading to a timely multi-agency meeting. This inquisitive approach led to the child allowing staff to check their mobile phone, where they identified significant safeguarding concerns, which they addressed without delay.

When the child goes missing from the home, staff follow the plans in place to help locate them quickly and safely. Staff know the plans well and are familiar with where the child often goes. However, the plans would be more effective if they specified whether the child remains in contact with the individuals recorded in them. Furthermore, some missing-from-home documents are incomplete, and this issue has not been identified through management oversight.

Staff know the child well and can de-escalate situations through their relationship with the child using verbal redirection. Staff help the child become more resilient by talking to them about their behaviour. This approach is effective, as there has been a reduction in holds, which is progress from the child's starting point.

Leaders and managers do not notify the regulator of all serious incidents. This is a missed opportunity to demonstrate how staff manage incidents and keep the child safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There have been changes in management at the home. An acting manager has been in post during the manager's absence, receiving support from a dedicated senior. The current manager plans to register with Ofsted.

Leaders and managers ensure that safeguarding practices remain consistent and that the child's wellbeing is at the heart of their work. Staff share this ethos. Through its commitment, the nurturing team provides a stable environment for the child with complex needs. Despite challenges and difficult times, the staff's unwavering care provides the child with a true sense of belonging.

Staff work effectively with a wide range of external agencies to support the child's progress. They share information clearly and attend regular meetings with social workers, police and healthcare professionals. This joined-up approach ensures that all the professionals fully understand the child's needs. This means that the child receives consistent care and well-coordinated support that help them feel safe and make steady progress.

Professionals speak highly of the commitment and dedication from staff. They recognise that the child is making progress in their own way during difficult times, and that the relationships between the staff and the child resemble those of a family, which is important to the child.

Staff are up to date with the provider's mandatory training, including physical intervention, first aid and safeguarding. Furthermore, they have received bespoke training to meet the child's specific needs. There are plans in place to further develop staff's knowledge and understanding through additional training.

Supervision sessions take place frequently, which staff say they find useful and help them reflect on their practice. This helps staff develop in their role and learn new skills. Regular team meetings take place to strengthen this reflective practice, allowing the team to share experiences. Staff are also supported by a psychologist to further their understanding of adverse childhood experiences.

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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h)) This specifically relates to missing-from-home records.	23 July 2026
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to sexual exploitation; and there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (a)(e))	23 July 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home provides the child with a homely, domestic environment while complying with relevant health and safety legislation. This recommendation has been restated. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that the child's personal circumstances, individual needs and educational history are relevant when considering what might constitute progress, but they should not limit their aspirations. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 26, paragraph 5.2)

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: 2599994

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hull City Council

Registered provider address: The Guildhall, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AA

Responsible individual: Michael Boddy

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Gemma McDonnell, Social Care Inspector

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