

2600541

Registered provider: Solace for Children Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. The home is registered to care for three children with social and emotional difficulties who may have experienced childhood trauma.

At the time of this inspection, three children were living in the home. Two children were spoken to during the inspection.

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 July 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: 12 November 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/11/2024	Full	Good
25/07/2023	Full	Good
21/03/2023	Full	Good
07/09/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, one child has been welcomed into the home, following a thorough assessment of their needs. On arrival, each child receives a personalised welcome pack that reflects their individual interests. This helps children begin building positive relationships with the people who will be caring for them and supports their understanding of what their new home will be like.

One child has moved out of the home since the last inspection, in line with their care plan for reunification with family. The manager successfully advocated for the staff team to continue supporting the child for a month following their departure. This provided a vital support network for the child's parent in establishing a routine, helping to ensure the child experienced consistency in having their care needs met during this period.

Children have fun and enjoy a range of activities both in and outside the home, such as horse riding, go-karting and trampolining. One child recently returned from a camping trip and talked about how well it had gone. All children have a planned summer holiday and will be completing a 5k inflatable course for charity this year. Each child has chosen a charity they will be raising money for, which helps them understand the positive impact they can have in supporting others.

The home is clean and well decorated throughout. Children's rooms are personalised, and the living areas are well furnished and homely, providing a comfortable environment for children to live in. One child initially referred to their bedroom as 'the bedroom' and the home as 'the home'. They now describe them as 'my bedroom' and 'my home', demonstrating the staff's commitment to exploring ways to help children feel safe and secure.

Children receive support from staff to develop the skills they need for their futures. This includes learning self-care skills and spending time independently in the community. These experiences help ensure that children are well prepared for leaving the home and are more able to live independently.

Children are supported to spend time with their families and friends, helping them maintain connections with the significant people in their lives. The home recognises the importance of children developing social networks and actively promotes opportunities for them to do so.

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

Staff have a clear understanding of the risks posed to children, including those related to internet use and online safety. Monitoring strategies are in place to protect children, and staff engage in regular conversations with them to raise awareness and understanding of these risks.

Children feel safe and have trusted adults they can speak to. Individual risks are identified, understood and managed effectively by staff and leaders. Risk assessments provide staff with the necessary information to keep children safe, and these are consistently applied. Missing-from-home incidents are few. When children have gone missing, their individual protocols are followed effectively to ensure their safe return.

Positive behaviour is consistently promoted. Each child has a personalised incentive chart that reflects goals tailored to their individual needs and interests. For the younger child in the home, staff have enhanced their chart with pictures representing the rewards they have chosen, providing a helpful visual aid to support their understanding of what they are working towards. The effectiveness of these charts is regularly reviewed with children to ensure they remain meaningful and motivational.

Staff spend quality time with children to understand how best to support them in managing their feelings safely. When children struggle to do this, physical intervention is used as a last resort to ensure their safety. Children consistently receive welfare checks following the use of intervention, however, staff members are not always spoken to about these incidents. This results in missed opportunities to support staff welfare and to review the accuracy of the restraint records.

Responses to incidents of self-harm are not always consistent. While children's immediate safety and welfare needs are met, there is a lack of consistency in how staff follow up with children to explore their feelings after such incidents. This creates missed opportunities for children to share concerns and receive emotional support.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is child focused and is supported by a staff team that shares her ambitious vision to provide the best possible care for children. They hold high expectations for children and are passionate about supporting them to achieve their full potential.

Staff receive good-quality, regular supervision. They say they feel well supported by the management team and are encouraged to continually develop their skills through regular access to specialist training and team workshops. When the manager identifies a specific developmental need for a child that cannot be sufficiently met through the home's planned training programme, specialist training is sourced for all staff to attend. This ensures that the care provided meets each child's individual needs.

Working in partnership with the wider network to support children's needs is a key strength of the manager's practice. Staff and leaders have developed excellent working relationships with external agencies and individuals identified by children as important in their lives. This collaborative approach has been integral to improving children's safety and overall experiences.

Feedback from professionals and parents is consistently positive. They particularly praise the manager and staff's communication, as well as the progress children make while living in the home. One parent commented, 'They are doing a brilliant job.'

The manager has a clear understanding of children's progress and strong oversight of the service. She recognises the home's strengths and areas for development and is continually striving for improvement. Children's views are incorporated into individual staff appraisals, ensuring that reviews of staff performance are focused on the experiences of children and the quality of care they receive.

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 registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and	8 September 2025

within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure.

(Regulation 35

(3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)(iv))

This specifically relates to offering the appropriate support and guidance following the use of physical intervention.

Recommendation

- The registered person should encourage children to share any concerns about their care or other matters as they arise. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.13)

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: 2600541

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Solace for Children Limited

Registered provider address: Tadcaster House, Kempton Road, Pershore,
Worcestershire WR10 2TA

Responsible individual: Ronan Franklin

Registered manager: Charlotte Stanton

Inspector

Charlotte Tippet, Social Care Inspector

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