

2602980

Registered provider: Cambridgeshire County 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 short breaks for up to 4 children with moderate to severe learning disabilities. One of the 4 children can live at the home permanently at any one time.

At the time of this inspection, 2 children were staying at the home under shared care arrangements.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2024. The registered provider has recently appointed a new responsible individual, and we are currently checking this person has the relevant capacity, experience and skills to carry out the role.

Inspection date: 23 March 2026

Date of last inspection: 29 July 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be 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.

Inspectors have 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 home is currently managed by a suitably experienced and qualified registered manager. The manager has submitted a voluntary cancellation to Ofsted and is due to leave their post at the end of March. The organisation has begun a recruitment process. Senior managers have plans in place for the oversight of the service while a new registered manager is recruited.

There have been no significant incidents for children since the last inspection. The home is generally settled and calm. Children enjoy a wide range of activities in the home. In addition, 2 children who live at the home under shared care arrangements have been on a seaside holiday.

The accessible bath, which was previously broken, has been replaced. For some children, this is the only opportunity that they have to use a bath due to their mobility needs. Children enjoy using the bath, particularly the musical and sensory play elements.

Children's behaviour support plans guide staff in how to support children at the home and in the community. They detail children's behaviours, communication needs and how staff can support children to be safe. Staff use these documents to plan children's visits.

There have been no incidents of children being missing from the home since the last inspection. Children have clear plans for staff to follow in the event of any missing incident.

Staff are knowledgeable about the children. They have a good understanding of children's needs and the support that individual children require. Staff receive training that is specific to the needs of the children who the home cares for, as well as standard mandatory training. Staff are trained in children's various feeding needs, medication and health needs, and individual communication needs.

There has been one safeguarding concern since the last inspection. Referrals were made to the relevant safeguarding agencies and an internal investigation was completed. The investigation was timely and did not raise any concerns about staff practice. However, leaders and managers have not ensured the completion of recommended actions from the investigation. This includes training for staff in injury identification and recording.

Leaders and managers have not met all of the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection. Although this has not had a significant impact on the safety of children, it does not demonstrate that leaders and managers use

monitoring and review processes to continually improve the service offered to children.

Children's views are not routinely sought in a meaningful way to allow them to have a say in their care planning or their stays at the home. There is limited creativity in relation to individual sessions with children and gaining children's views. Children's targets are set by staff in line with their education and health targets. Children are not routinely involved in the setting of these targets. Feedback for children is not used in staff appraisals or in the reviewing of staff practice. The children's guide does not provide complete information for children on how to make a complaint about the home to external safeguarding agencies.

Some children have monitoring or restrictions placed on them in line with their individual needs, such as baby monitors and harness devices. The use of these have not been frequently reviewed to ensure that they are still appropriate and the least restrictive option for children.

Not all staff have obtained a relevant qualification within the specified time frame. The number of staff who have not achieved this qualification in timescale has increased since the last inspection. There are plans in place to support staff to achieve this, but this support has not yet had an impact.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/07/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/03/2025	Full	Good
19/12/2023	Full	Good
16/08/2022	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(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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(f)(h))	18 May 2026
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in	18 May 2026

the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care; ensure that each child— is enabled to provide feedback to, and raise issues with, a relevant person about the support and services that the child receives; has access to the home's children's guide, and the home's complaints procedure, when the child's placement in the home is agreed and throughout the child's stay in the home; and keep the children's guide and the home's complaints procedure under review and seek children's comments before revising either document. (Regulation 7 (1)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children's home; or if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform.	18 May 2026

For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained—

the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or

a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma.

The relevant date is—

in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home; or

in the case of an individual who was working in a care role in a home on 1st April 2014, 1st April 2016.

(Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(b) (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)(b))

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2602980

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cambridgeshire County Council

Registered provider address: Sunley House, Summers Hill Drive, Papworth
Everard, Cambridge CB23 3AB

Responsible individual: post vacant

Registered manager: Amelia Hayes

Inspector

Andrea Bounden, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2026