

2611027

Registered provider: Halliwell Homes (Midlands Division) Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is privately owned. It provides care for up to 8 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been in post for 2 months; they have submitted their application to register with Ofsted.

At the time of this inspection, five children were living in the home. All children were observed with staff, and one child contributed spoke with the inspector.

Inspection date: 24 February 2026

Date of last inspection: 26 November 2025

Judgement at last inspection: Requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, 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.

Since the last inspection, no children have come to live in the home, and one child has moved on. The child was moved earlier than planned when their complex behaviours increased. Staff supported the child to have a planned move which included welcoming new staff to visit the child and taking the child to visit their new home. This supported the child to settle at their new home.

Since the last inspection, there has been a period of significant instability in staffing. Shortfalls in staffing have largely been covered by core staff and staff from other homes within the organisation. New staff have been recruited, and the home now has sufficient staff to care for five children. Managers acknowledge the negative impact this high staff turnover has had on children's sense of security and stability.

Leadership within the home has recently stabilised. A new manager and two deputies have been appointed. A manager from a sister home is also providing support to the management team and to staff. As a result, managers now have the capacity to address shortfalls identified at the last inspection and develop plans to drive improvement.

Managers have reviewed staff training and support. Staff have received bespoke training which has improved their understanding of children's behaviours. Staff now receive regular supervision that is supportive and reflective. They report feeling well supported by their managers and say that team morale has improved. Staff describe the home as 'more settled' and say that confidence within the team has grown. This creates a calm and positive environment for children, which helps them to feel secure and promotes their wellbeing.

Managers now have the capacity to consistently monitor patterns, trends and triggers to children's behaviours. This information is shared with staff and used to develop strategies to better support children. As a result, the number of times that staff use restraint to support children in crisis is reducing.

Following incidents of restraint, managers ensure that children and staff have a supportive conversation with an independent person. On occasions, staff are not debriefed within prescribed timescales. Additionally, managers are sometimes not sufficiently professionally curious and reflective when considering staff practice. This compromises managers ability to identify and rectify shortfalls in staff practice and to offer support to staff at the time they need it most.

When children make allegations, they are always taken seriously. This enables children to feel confident that their voices are heard and their views matter. Managers

and staff follow safeguarding procedures and work in partnership with children's social workers and the local authority designated officer.

There are warm and affectionate relationships between staff and children. Staff support children to take part in a range of activities that they enjoy. They consult with children about all aspects of their care. Social workers are generally positive about the care their children receive. One child's social worker said that managers and staff communicate effectively and that their child has made progress from their starting points. Another child's social worker recognised the progress their child has made but was concerned at the negative impact on the child of the recent period of staff instability.

Staff support children to safely maintain relationships with people who are important to them. This includes supporting children to stay overnight with family members and enjoy a natural family type environment. One carer praised staff for the emotional support they gave their child at a difficult time.

The home is generally clean and well maintained. However, communal areas are tired and worn looking. Children's toys are disorganised and not easily accessible which reduces children's enjoyment of them. Clothing is haphazardly piled in children's wardrobes because there is insufficient storage. One child's bedroom is sparse and does not offer a homely or welcoming atmosphere. These shortfalls limit children's sense of pride in their personal space and reduce their overall enjoyment and comfort within the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/11/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/02/2025	Full	Outstanding
27/06/2023	Full	Good
09/08/2022	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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— (i) meet the needs of each child; and (ii) enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) This particularly refers to the registered person ensuring that children have sufficient storage for their clothes, and that children's toys are organised and readily accessible to children. Additionally, that children are supported to personalise their bedrooms.	12 April 2026
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;	12 April 2026

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.

Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)

This specifically refers to the responsible person ensuring that following an incident when restraint is used to manage children's behaviours, staff receive an effective de-brief within timescales set out in regulation.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that records of restraint are kept and should enable the registered person and staff to review the use of control, discipline and restraint to identify effective practice and respond promptly where any issues or trends of concern emerge. The review should provide the opportunity for amending practice to ensure it meets the needs of each child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 49, paragraph 9.59)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2611027

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Responsible individual: Paul Bliss

Registered manager: Position vacant

Inspector

Karen Gillingwater, Social Care Inspector

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