

2611536

Registered provider: Central and Southern Homes Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

The home's manager has been registered with Ofsted since April 2025.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home. They have lived in the home since the last full inspection.

Inspection date: 19 August 2025

Date of last inspection: 2 April 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.

The inspector has 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.

Staff have positive and secure relationships with children. They use humour and fun to support children and to maintain boundaries. Staff have improved confidence in managing incidents, although this remains an area of development.

Staff meet the educational needs of some of the children, but for one child their educational needs are yet to be met. The manager appropriately challenges external agencies in respect of this. Staff are developing clearer plans for when children are not in school, but this not yet embedded into practice. Staff advocate for the children when required.

The provider has made significant improvements to the decoration and repairs within the home, as well as in the garden. The environment now has a more homely and child-friendly feel. Children now have space to safely play and spend time outside.

Staff understand the risks in relation to the children, and when concerns have been raised, they have acted appropriately to address these, and safeguarding measures have been put in place.

Staff are developing their confidence in managing challenging situations and unsafe behaviour. Overall, there has been a decrease in physical interventions. Some physical interventions which take place are lengthy and not always effective in de-escalating incidents. Recording of incidents varies in quality and clarity.

Staff support children's emotional well-being, and they are encouraged to share how they are feeling. When there have been incidents, important reparative work has been completed after them.

Children have not gone missing from the home.

The manager utilises the support from senior managers to assist in monitoring the improvements in the home, and there is a clear plan in place to address any shortfalls.

When there have been concerns, the manager has addressed these swiftly. Management oversight is present in records, although this varies in detail and is not always completely in a timely manner.

Staff have received appropriate training to help them to widen their learning and note that they feel better equipped to do their roles due to this. The home is staffed appropriately and there are no concerns in respect of vacancies.

The provider has met two out of three requirements and one out of three recommendations. Those unmet requirements and recommendations will be restated.. There are no additional requirements or recommendations.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/04/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/08/2024	Full	Good
25/04/2023	Full	Good
15/11/2022	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 positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(xi)) In particular, ensure that staff have the skill and confidence to be able to de-escalate incidents effectively.	1 June2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording, particularly in relation to safeguarding incidents. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure children receive structured support when they are out of education, and that staff plan for a swift return. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 28, paragraph 5.15)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2611536

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Central and Southern Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Pitmaston House, Malvern Road, Worcester WR2 4LL

Responsible individual: Katie Howard

Registered manager: Finlay Ford

Inspector

Helen Cushnie, Social Care Inspector

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