

2616605

Registered provider: Compass Children's Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. The home provides care for up to six children with social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the inspection, there were six children living in the home.

The registered manager has been in post since April 2024.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 September 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: 2 October 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/10/2024	Full	Good
02/08/2023	Full	Good
09/08/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/03/2022	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive good-quality care from a staff team whose members understand each child's individual needs. The children speak positively about their relationships with the staff and recognise that boundaries are in place to keep them safe and to be happy in their home.

Children are in good health and are making progress physically, emotionally and socially. The emotional health of all the children has improved since living in this home. Staff understand that a child's mental health can be impacted by their past experiences in a negative way. Children's needs are assessed quickly when they arrive at the home and plans are put in place with the assistance of the in-house therapist to understand the child's individual needs.

Managers and staff strongly advocate for children to attend the school or college that meets their individual needs, working in partnership with teachers and social workers. Staff ensure that children's barriers to education are understood and addressed, and children achieve their potential. Managers professionally challenge the local authority when they believe that it is not acting in the children's best interests. However, education, health and care plans are not documented in the children's placement plans.

Children are safe and say they are happy because of the level of support from the staff team. Children have positive relationships with each other. Staff manage any disputes between them sensitively and quickly to stop issues escalating. Records of key-worker sessions indicate that children openly talk to staff and discuss any issues that are important to them.

Staff hold regular key-worker sessions with children. Some sessions are planned, some follow a significant event and some are to help children prepare for upcoming events. These are often led by children, who decide when and where these sessions take place. However, these sessions are not always documented accurately, which limits children's ability to view them and revisit any topics discussed.

Children are supported to prepare for adulthood. The children who have left the home were supported to move on positively and had practical and emotional support. Children new to the home are welcomed sensitively. Before children move in, a thorough assessment is carried out to consider the children's needs alongside the needs of the other children in the home and the skill set of the staff team.

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

Safeguarding incidents are managed well by staff. Staff spoken to demonstrate that they know the children well and have a good understanding of their risks and how to respond to these.

Individualised risk management plans are in place that identify individual risks and guide staff on how to manage these. Staff ensure that there are clear chronologies of events, which gives staff a current and up-to-date understanding of children's behaviours.

Staff are therapeutically trained, and this is embedded in their approach for caring for the children. Regular input from in-house therapists and other professionals ensures that staff provide care that is reflective and trauma informed. Staff respond calmly and safely when any incidents occur, and this promotes the child's welfare.

Children rarely go missing from the home. When they do, they experience a well-coordinated response. Staff use their relationships with the children to support them in making positive decisions, and staff work with professionals and their families to reduce these risks. All staff are trained in the missing-from-home procedure and know how to respond appropriately.

Staff focus on promoting children's positive behaviours. As a result, physical interventions are used rarely and only used as a last resort to safeguard children from harm. Children are supported to reflect on the hold after the event. However, there is no evidence documented that debriefs with staff are taking place. This limits their ability to reflect on the event and identify any lessons learned.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

An inspirational manager leads this home. Two deputy managers support him. He is an ambitious leader who knows the children extremely well. He has high expectations for children's progress and achievements. The manager aims to provide safe, stable, loving care to all children and leads by example, providing child-focused leadership that prioritises children's needs.

The registered manager is knowledgeable about the strengths and weaknesses of the home. The manager invests in the professional development of the staff team to improve the quality of care provided to children. Feedback from external professionals was positive.

Team meetings take place regularly and are well attended. They are an opportunity for the team to get together and to share information and updates about the children. They are also used as a development opportunity for staff. However, the records of these meetings are procedural rather than focusing on staff practice. This is a missed opportunity for staff reflection and further development.

Staff report feeling supported by the manager and senior staff team, having regular supervision to discuss the children and training developments. Children's behaviours and past incidents are discussed. However, supervision records do not show that practice-related discussions have taken place. This is a missed opportunity for staff to reflect on their performance, or to gain individualised support from senior staff to improve their development.

The manager ensures that staff complete all required training and have opportunities to undertake shadow shifts before working unsupervised in the home. There is a detailed training programme for staff. All staff are up to date with the home's mandatory training, and they have also received specialised training to meet the specific additional needs of the children in the home.

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 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. (Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(ii)) Specifically, when children are held, the registered person, or other senior person nominated by the registered person, should debrief the staff involved and record that this debrief has happened.	30 November 2025
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii))	30 November 2025

Specifically, when children have education, health and care plans, the registered person must ensure this is recorded in their home placement plan.	
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— demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(g)(ii)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children's home placement plans are written in a style that reflects the voice of the child.	30 November 2025

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision which allows them to reflect on their practice. Specifically, reflection on care given to the children and supporting colleagues in their development. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)
- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 2616605

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Compass Children's Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Compass Community Ltd, 3 Rayns Way, Syston, Leicester LE7 1PF

Responsible individual: Christopher Bowker

Registered manager: Alan White

Inspectors

Nicola Jeffery, Social Care Inspector
Chibuzo Otache, Social Care Inspector

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