

2618755

Registered provider: Young Birch Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a private provider. It was registered with Ofsted in April 2021. It can provide care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in May 2022.

Inspection date: 24 September 2025

Date of last inspection: 20 May 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

Ofsted did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children during this assurance inspection.

At the time of the inspection, one child was living in the home. Since the last inspection, one child has moved out. Although the home had anticipated a planned transition, this did not occur, and the child was moved at short notice to their new placement. This was a poor experience for the child and did not allow sufficient time for them to prepare for the move. Leaders and managers have formally raised concerns with the placing authority regarding the impact of this experience on the child.

The child currently living in the home has made some progress. Staff have supported the child to attend health and education appointments. There has been a reduction in incidents, and the child is increasingly responsive to staff encouragement and communication. For example, during free time, the child now responds more consistently to welfare calls and shares details of their location. This reflects the development of positive relationships between the child and staff.

The child continues to experience difficulties accessing education. Staff have worked collaboratively with the professional network to identify a suitable education provision, but one has not yet been secured. Delays in this process are having a negative impact on the child. The need to consider an assessment of the child's education, health and care needs has been discussed at care planning meetings but remains unaddressed. The home has not escalated this matter, which further hinders the child's access to appropriate education.

Leaders and managers have addressed the shortfalls in recruitment practice identified at the last inspection. The recruitment of new staff has been thorough and has ensured the appointment of safe and suitable individuals.

Staff have received specific training to equip them with the skills and knowledge required to care for the children in the home. This has improved staff understanding of the risks children may face and how to respond effectively to behaviours.

Team meetings are held regularly; however, minutes do not consistently provide evidence of meaningful discussion. Staff are not yet receiving regular supervision, which limits opportunities for reflection, knowledge-building and skill development in caring for children.

The implementation of an electronic recording system has improved the organisation of records and key documents. However, the system is not being used consistently, and further support is required to ensure that staff are confident in its use.

The home environment is mostly well presented, and children are supported to personalise their bedrooms. However, the flooring in some areas is in poor condition and requires repair.

Three of the requirements and the recommendation raised at the previous inspection have been met. Two requirements have been partially met and have therefore been raised again. One additional requirement and one new recommendation have also been raised.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/05/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
26/11/2024	Full	Good
15/08/2023	Full	Good
04/05/2022	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 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— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the need of each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(h)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that staff have opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge through regular supervision in order to promote the welfare of children. It also relates to ensuring that the monitoring systems are effective in quickly identifying shortcomings.	27 November 2025
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.	27 November 2025

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child’s placing authority; that the child’s placing authority is contacted, and a review of that child’s relevant plans is requested, if— the registered person considers that the child is at risk of harm or has concerns that the care provided for the child is inadequate to meet the child’s needs. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)(e)(i)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that children moving into and out of the home have a well-planned transition and effective induction.	
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; support each child’s learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment;	27 November 2025

promote opportunities for each child to learn informally;

maintain regular contact with each child's education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child's education and training and to maximise the child's achievement;

raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority;

help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible;

help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans; and

that each child has access to appropriate equipment, facilities and resources to support the child's learning.
(Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(x)(b))

This specifically relates to the registered manager challenging the local authority plan for a child's education when they are not attending school, and to escalating the need for a further assessment of a child's education needs when this has already been identified as required.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the home has a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of their children, they will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. This specifically relates to ensuring that internal carpets and flooring are well maintained in stairways, landings and bathrooms. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2618755

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Young Birch Ltd

Registered provider address: Young Birch Ltd, 4 Station Avenue, Tile Hill, Coventry CV4 9HS

Responsible individual: Mark Easie

Registered manager: Nigel Rowe

Inspector

Becky Rutter, Social Care Inspector

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