

2648027

Registered provider: Esland North Limited

Full 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 offers care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living in the home.

Since the last inspection, a new manager has been appointed. They have applied to register with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 9 and 10 June 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 6 January 2026

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/01/2026	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/09/2025	Full	Inadequate
18/12/2024	Full	Good
04/12/2023	Full	Good

Summary of findings

Staff do not consistently support the child in establishing and maintaining routines on days when they do not attend school. Additionally, shortfalls in recording and reporting limit management oversight in the home, leading to inaccuracies in the child's risk assessment and other records. As a result, the steps for staff to follow during incidents are not always clear. However, leaders and managers are taking steps to strengthen monitoring and reviewing systems to ensure effective oversight.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

The child does not attend school regularly and, when at home, spends most of their time in their bedroom. Staff interaction is inconsistent, and encouragement to participate in activities is ineffective. As a result, the child remains socially isolated in the home and has limited opportunities to engage in informal learning or activities that promote their overall wellbeing and development.

Relationships between the child and staff are beginning to develop, and staff speak with the child about their family and interests. However, the language used in records to document these discussions is not always child focused or therapeutic. This does not support the child to develop a positive sense of self should they read their records.

Staff speak with the child about their wishes and feelings, especially in relation to their care plan. Their views are always sought before planned meetings with professionals. The child is also supported to attend important meetings so they can share their thoughts and feelings directly. This helps to ensure that the child understands what is happening and is involved in decisions about their care.

Professionals report that they are happy with the care provided by staff. They say that staff encourage the child to maintain links with their local area, despite now living further away. Professionals and a family member say that staff communicate effectively to ensure that relevant individuals are kept up to date with the child's progress.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Staff understand the child's risks, and risk assessments are reviewed regularly. However, the current assessment does not provide clear or accurate guidance for staff to follow to keep the child safe. As a result, not all staff know how to respond appropriately when incidents occur.

The quality of recording and reporting is inconsistent. Important information is often missing from records, making it difficult to understand what happens during incidents,

how they are managed and what learning can be taken from them. This limits management oversight and may lead to missed opportunities for staff learning and development.

Staff respond effectively when children go missing from the home. They are proactive and spend time searching for them. They ensure that relevant parties are kept informed and that the child receives support when they return.

When children make allegations, leaders and managers take these seriously and ensure that they are fully investigated. The child's wishes and feelings are considered, and they are kept informed of outcomes. This helps children to feel listened to and respected.

Recruitment practices ensure that only suitable and safe individuals are employed to care for children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The home is managed by a newly appointed and enthusiastic manager. Together with senior managers, they are taking steps to improve oversight and are developing monitoring and reviewing systems to support this. However, some shortfalls are not always recognised or addressed, which limits continuous improvement in practice.

Staff report feeling well supported by leaders and managers. They value the 'open-door' ethos in the home and the guidance they receive. Although there have been some staffing changes since the last inspection, steps are being taken to recruit a full and stable staff team.

Staff receive regular supervision, which helps them to reflect on their practice and identify areas for development. Team meetings take place consistently to ensure that staff remain informed and up to date.

Leaders and managers ensure that staff training is relevant and well attended. This helps staff to develop the knowledge and skills required to meet the child's individual needs.

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff — assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children's risks are clearly assessed. They must ensure that staff are provided with accurate guidance and strategies to support them to reduce risks. This requirement was raised at the last inspection and has been restated.	7 August 2026

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 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)(a)(c)(f)(h)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that monitoring and reviewing systems are robust. Additionally, leaders and managers must ensure that records are completed fully, containing all necessary information, in order to maintain effective oversight and identify areas for learning and development to address any shortfalls. This requirement was raised at the last inspection and has been restated.	7 August 2026
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.	7 August 2026

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—

understand and apply the home's statement of purpose;

ensure that staff—

understand and apply the home's statement of purpose;

protect and promote each child's welfare;

provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background;

make decisions about the day-to-day arrangements for each child, in accordance with the child's relevant plans, which give the child an appropriate degree of freedom and choice.

(Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iv)(ix))

Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that children are consistently supported to develop healthy daily routines and are encouraged to engage in activities and enrichment opportunities that promote their wellbeing.

Information about this inspection

The inspector has 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: 2648027

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Esland North Limited

Registered provider address: Suites 1 and 5 Riverside Business Centre, Foundry Lane, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0RN

Responsible individual: Louise Rhodes

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Danielle Allen, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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