

2665860

Registered provider: CF Social Work Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned by a small independent organisation and provides care for up to 3 children who may have social and emotional needs.

At the time of the inspection, there were 2 children living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2025.

Inspection date: 6 January 2026

Date of last inspection: 10 June 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.

At the time of the inspection, 2 children were living in the home. Both children have lived in the home for over a year. No children have moved in or out since the last inspection.

Children's physical, emotional, social, health and educational needs are met. Each child has an identified education provision, and staff make reasonable efforts to promote attendance and support learning at home. Children benefit from a range of activities that promote wellbeing and identity. Health needs are supported effectively, including access to an in-house therapist.

Family relationships are promoted in line with care plans, and staff encourage friendships and social connections. Staff make considerable efforts, including long-distance travel, to support and help maintain these relationships.

The home environment is maintained to a very good standard. It is clean, well decorated and furnished appropriately. Improvements have been made to shared spaces and further improvement is planned.

Children are kept safe. Staff know the children well and respond appropriately when they are distressed. Risk assessments and behaviour support plans are detailed, individualised and updated routinely. Key-work sessions are used positively and recorded regularly. On two occasions, managers arranged short breaks away for a child when they were struggling, demonstrating proactive and creative practice.

De-escalation techniques are consistently used, and physical intervention is only applied when necessary and proportionate. Managers talk to children and hold debriefs with staff following any incident of restraint, and all incidents are evaluated.

Responses to missing-from-home incidents have strengthened. Staff act in line with plans, report promptly, conduct searches and speak with children on their return. When children have gone missing frequently, staff have sought multi-agency meetings to coordinate plans to help reduce the risk of children going missing.

Other risks, including child sexual exploitation, self-harm and mental health concerns, are managed well. Staff act swiftly and sensitively. When children self-harm, staff respond with empathy and make the environment safe.

Staff conduct is appropriate. Staff show care and attention to children. One incident involved a child assaulting a staff member. Managers facilitated a restorative meeting that repaired the relationship effectively. Lessons were learned and practice reviewed.

Leaders and managers demonstrate competence and commitment. They have addressed shortfalls from the previous inspection. Managers have clear aspirations for the home and reflect on practice to drive improvement.

Staff morale has improved. The home now has a stable workforce, following previous high turnover and frequent use of agency staff. Supervision is regular and focuses on children's needs and staff development. Training is accessible and up to date.

One child has made a complaint since the last inspection. This was handled appropriately by the responsible individual. Children's records are well maintained. Daily logs and incident records are detailed and professional.

Children shared their views with the inspector. Neither child raised any safeguarding concerns. Both children said their views are listened to, for example, about activities and meals. One child spoke positively about their overall experiences in the home, however, the other highlighted areas for improvement, including clarity around free time and feeling able to speak to more adults. Both noted occasional difficulties in peer relationships. Staff and managers should continue to strengthen relationships between children and between staff and children.

Feedback from external professionals was generally positive. Records show good communication with social workers and wider networks, although some case discussions and decisions were not clearly recorded. One professional and one parent reported a lack of regular updates. Managers must ensure decisions are communicated promptly and records are clear.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/06/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/01/2025	Full	Good
02/01/2024	Full	Good
20/07/2022	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— 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— meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans; strive to gain each child's respect and trust; understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children. (Regulation 11 (1)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(viii)(ix))	1 February 2026

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that they and their staff engage proactively with the placing authority to contribute fully to the relevant plans for the child's care on an ongoing basis. In particular, any discussions around changes to care plans or safety plans should be clearly recorded and shared. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.2)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2665860

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: CF Social Work Limited

Registered provider address: CF Social Work, 3-4b K Line House, West Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9SX

Responsible individual: Andrew Robinson-Watts

Registered manager: Emma Phelps

Inspector

Daniel Rankin, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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