

2666995

Registered provider: Assure Care Homes Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to four children who experience social and emotional difficulties. It is owned by a private organisation. At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

There has not been a registered manager in post since 17 September 2025.

Inspection date: 18 December 2025

Date of last inspection: 28 July 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 are increasingly positive about the care children receive. They highlight improvements in the home that have strengthened relationships with children. One child recently expressed feeling safe and loved living in the home, demonstrating the positive impact of these changes.

Children are developing positive relationships with each other, although some sibling conflict remains. Staff respond effectively when disagreements occur and help children to manage these situations. On occasions, children take the initiative to repair relationships themselves. Staff praise these efforts and use them as opportunities to teach constructive ways to resolve conflict.

Children are building independence skills by participating in everyday tasks, such as cooking meals and doing their own laundry. They are also improving their self-care, which supports confidence and preparation for future life. Staff have introduced clear boundaries and consistent routines, giving children structure and predictability throughout their day.

Staff have worked hard to secure advocacy support for children. Two children now have advocates they have met, and a third child's referral has been accepted, with an advocate soon to be allocated. This ensures that children have additional opportunities to express their views and receive independent support in decisions about their care.

Children live in a warm and welcoming home, which has been decorated for Christmas. Children have also decorated their bedrooms, creating a homely and festive atmosphere. Any damage in the home is promptly reported and repaired.

The new home manager is applying to register with Ofsted. Staff speak positively about the new management structure. They feel supported and listened to by leaders and managers. The new manager demonstrates effective leadership by challenging staff practice when necessary to maintain high standards of care.

Leaders and managers have successfully recruited to the service, resulting in a full staff team. All staff receive training relevant to their roles, including childcare qualifications for eligible staff. Staff benefit from regular supervision and frequent team meetings.

Leaders and managers have developed strong multi-agency working with the wider network. Any concerns are promptly shared with professionals involved in children's care. Leaders and managers attend regular meetings to ensure that children's needs are met.



Staff respond promptly to risks and take action to keep children safe. However, written records do not always clearly show what actions were taken. This means that reports sometimes lack detail about how concerns were managed.

Although managers have reviewed these records, they have not addressed the gaps in clarity. This is a missed opportunity to strengthen staff's recording skills and reinforce the importance of accurate and detailed records.



Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/07/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
24/09/2024	Full	Good
15/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/10/2022	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 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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))	6 February 2026



Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2666995

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Assure Care Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: Unit 4, Northbrook Industrial Estate, Hollybrook Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 6PB

Responsible individual: Christopher Newman

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Louise Webling, Social Care Inspector



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