

2686745

Registered provider: Homes2Inspire Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned. It provides care for up to two children who may experience social or emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, one child was living at the home and contributed to the inspection. One child had moved out during this inspection period.

The home is being led by a manager who is not registered with Ofsted. The manager has applied to become registered.

Inspection dates: 26 and 27 November 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: 1 October 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/10/2024	Full	Good
13/09/2023	Full	Good
19/01/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home is warm and welcoming and provides children with a comfortable environment. Children's views have been considered when decorating the home. There are photos of the children throughout the home that capture happy memories for the children, such as holidays and birthdays.

Staff understand the importance of maintaining children's family connections. Children feel confident to invite their family members home. For example, one child recently enjoyed a takeaway with her sister at the home. Another child's mother said, 'I always feel welcome.' She appreciated the support from staff. These positive experiences help children feel settled and strengthen their sense of belonging.

Children and staff have developed strong, trusting relationships. The staff provide consistent, nurturing care, which helps children feel valued and emotionally secure. The children respond well to this supportive approach. They recognise that staff genuinely care about their well-being. This helps children to build attachments, express their feelings and make progress.

Staff provide effective and personalised support to help children to progress to the next stage of their lives. One older child became pregnant and was sensitively supported to move on to the next stage of her life with her baby. Staff helped her to learn the practical skills needed to develop her independence, which supported her to care for herself and her baby. This older child continues to benefit from positive, trusting relationships with two members of staff who maintain regular contact with her. This ongoing support is highly valued and contributes to her continued stability.

Children have made notable progress since the last full inspection in October 2024, particularly in relation to their educational arrangements. Two children, who were not engaged in education, now have clear and appropriate education plans. One child has successfully returned to mainstream school after being out of education for almost three years. This demonstrates significant improvement.

Another child is now attending an education provision that meets their needs. Staff continue to work closely with the child and relevant professionals to build on this progress. This sustained and collaborative approach is helping children to re-engage positively with their learning.

Children benefit from well-coordinated support that helps them to access any specialist support services they may need. Staff understand the importance of reviewing support and ensuring that children engage with services at a pace that is right for them.

The manager is strong and resilient and continues to ensure child-focused care practice. For example, when a child was finding it difficult to attend an external service, the

manager arranged for the specialist worker to visit the home instead. This flexible and sensitive approach helps to reduce barriers and ensures the child's individual needs are prioritised.

Children's cultural and identity needs are a priority. However, this is not reflected in children's care plans. As a result, opportunities are missed to clearly record, review and evaluate how children's cultural needs are being met.

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

Children feel safe. One child has become increasingly safer because the number of times they go missing from home has significantly reduced. Now, if the child goes missing, they will contact staff and ask to be picked up and brought home. This demonstrates that the child feels safe and confident to turn to staff for help, and it reflects the development of trusting relationships that support them in making safer choices.

Staff support children in identifying and managing their risks and vulnerabilities. Staff have regular, age-appropriate discussions with children. They encourage them to understand potential dangers and help them to make safe and informed choices.

There are effective and collaborative multi-agency working arrangements for a child who is at increased risk of exploitation. The manager was quickly able to identify when the risk for the child was escalating and took swift action. Regular meetings with relevant professionals have been arranged to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place, demonstrating a proactive and well-coordinated approach to protecting the child.

Children have clear and individualised risk management assessments that outline their specific vulnerabilities and the actions required of staff to keep the children safe. These plans are sufficiently detailed and provide good and strong guidance for staff. Staff know the children well, including their individual risks and behaviours. They usually follow children's plans. However, on one occasion, a child's plan was not followed. This led to a significant incident of the child going missing from home. Leaders and managers responded promptly and appropriately, implementing any learning and sharing it with the wider team to reduce the risk of reoccurrence.

Staff follow the home's missing-from-care policy and promptly inform the relevant agencies when children do not return home. They carry out local searches and attempt to contact the children. However, staff do not consistently continue searching or maintain contact attempts throughout the night. This lack of persistence represents a missed opportunity to strengthen safeguarding practice and ensure children's safety when they are missing from home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by a manager who is both inspirational and aspirational for the children. She is highly experienced in caring for children and promotes a strong, child-centred ethos

across the home. She supports staff to embed this vision effectively, which focuses on creating a loving, family-oriented environment in which children feel valued and able to thrive.

Staff feel well supported at this home. They value supervision, which takes place regularly and is supportive. Staff attend regular team meetings. They also benefit from taking part in learning circles. This has helped them to reflect, and it is a learning opportunity that has a positive impact on the children they care for.

The manager implements robust recruitment and vetting procedures, ensuring that all safeguarding checks are completed and verified prior to staff taking up duties at the home.

The manager places a strong emphasis on advocacy and ensures that each child has access to an individual advocate. She is a committed and effective advocate herself, championing children's rights and ensuring their voices influence care practice. Children are encouraged to share their wishes and feelings, and they consistently see these acted on, which helps them feel heard and empowered. For example, when a child expressed a preference for a particular education provision, the manager promptly arranged a visit to the school, ensuring that the child's views were central to the decision-making process.

The manager has established strong and effective relationships with external professionals and the children's families. Stakeholder feedback was wholly positive and reflects the manager's commitment to collaborative practice and high-quality care.

Point-in-time surveys have not been completed during this inspection period. This is a missed opportunity for leaders and managers to reflect and further develop the service offered to children and families. It is also a missed opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the home's strengths and the areas that require further improvement.

There was a clear escalation of risk for one child at a particular point. While this risk was well managed with the child and relevant agencies, there is no evidence that the team received immediate support or guidance following this incident to help them manage the escalation effectively. This lack of recorded managerial oversight or debriefing represents a missed opportunity to ensure that staff were fully supported and equipped to respond to the increased level of risk.

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
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. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that staff consistently follow children's plans to support the reduction of risks for children.	2 January 2026
When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (2)(b)) In particular, the registered person should seek children's consent for the independent visitor to view their files.	2 January 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children's heritage and cultural needs are reflected within the care planning. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.2)
- The registered person should ensure that learning from incidents is shared with all staff to improve practice. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 55, paragraph 10.24)

- The registered person should ensure that there are plans in place to actively search for children who go missing from home over a sustained period of time. This includes clear arrangements and expectations of staff when children are missing overnight. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 42, paragraph 9.5)

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: 2686745

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Homes2Inspire Limited

Registered provider address: Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Responsible individual: Carla-Marie Dore

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Becky Thompson, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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