

2694810

Registered provider: Empower Residential Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home can provide care for two children who may have emotional and social needs or learning difficulties. At the time of inspection, one child was living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2024.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 June 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
---	-------------

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 14 August 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/08/2024	Full	Good
10/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/02/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff are kind, caring and sensitive towards the child's needs. Staff have formed strong relationships with the child and have helped them to grow and develop in the two plus years they have lived in the home. Staff know the child well and fully understand how they can get the best out of the child. They use that knowledge to ensure that the child experiences positive outcomes and makes progress in many areas of their life.

Staff understand the importance of the child attending and doing well in their education. The registered manager has proactively challenged the school and is a strong advocate for the child, ensuring their rights are upheld and they receive a full educational provision to meet their needs and make further progress. Staff take opportunity to regularly engage with the child in meaningful informal educational activity to aid their learning and development.

Staff have been proactive in enabling the child to develop a friendship with a peer. Staff help ensure that the child enjoys spending quality time with their friend and enjoy activities that match a common interest and have fun BBQs in the garden at one another's home. Staff also ensure that the child spends meaningful and valuable time with their family, aware of the positive impact this has on the child's emotional well-being.

The child is supported to attend all their medical appointments, including medication reviews to maintain and improve their physical health and mental wellbeing. Staff support the child to enjoy a healthy, well-balanced diet.

The manager and staff recognise the importance of the child experiencing a range of activities that meets their interests and hobbies. Staff understand the child's unique needs and support them thoughtfully to engage in activities they enjoy and celebrate with the child when they find rare historic items that brings the child such excitement. These activities include mud larking, banger racing, trips to the beach and antiques fairs. These experiences help to support the child to grow socially and emotionally.

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

The child says they feel safe living in their home. Staff understand the importance of maintaining established boundaries to help keep the child safe. Staff treat the child with dignity and respect and know when they need to give the child their own privacy and personal space and when the child needs their support. When incidents occur, staff take appropriate and effective action to help the child manage their own behaviour safely.

When concerns are raised by the child about staff's actions, the manager acts efficiently and effectively to protect children and keep them safe. Staff have built positive relationships with local authorities and their designated officers. When required, thorough investigations take place and the child's voice is listened to, believed and supported throughout. Staff involved are also supported to help ensure that their mental and emotional well-being needs are met and appropriate action is taken to ensure staff are suitable and safe to work with vulnerable children.

Restraint has been used on occasion to keep the child and others safe and protected from harm. Records are detailed and clearly describe what led up to the incident and the de-escalation techniques staff used prior to using physical intervention as a last resort. However, managers do not always reflect with the child or staff specifically about the use of restraint following an incident or evaluate its effectiveness. This is a missed opportunity to inform future practice.

Staff have built trusting and secure relationships with the child and the child has staff they can go to and share their thoughts and feelings with. Staff have many open conversations with the child and are skilled at discussing sensitive and delicate topics in a caring child-friendly way. Staff conscientiously listen to the child to gain a thorough understanding of their concerns and respond appropriately taking prompt action to allay any fears and ensure the child feels supported and protected.

Staff have been instrumental in helping the child have their deprivation of liberty order lifted so that their personal freedom is no longer restricted. The child is now supported to have more independence and is able to spend free time in the community away from staff.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is well managed by a committed manager, who has high aspirations for the home and the child they support. They understand the importance of positively working closely with external professionals to help them achieve their vision. The culture and ethos set by the manager is embraced by all staff, who share the manager's vision and put the child at the heart of everything they do.

Leaders and managers have good oversight and understand the strengths of the home, and the developments and changes that need to be made to ensure the home continually improves. The quality of care provided is regularly monitored to ensure that the child continues to make progress from their starting points.

Staff say they feel valued and enjoy working in the home. They speak with pride about how they support the child and make a positive difference to their life. Staff express confidence in the leaders and managers, who they say demonstrate true concern for their well-being and work-life balance.

The child's voice shines through in the records, which are child focused. Staff work together to provide stability for the child, recognising how fundamental having a stable base is for the child from which they can grow and flourish. Records positively reflect the child's achievements.

The home feels warm and homely. The child's identity can be felt throughout the home. There is a museum room in the house that contains a vast collection of historic items that staff have helped the child to find. Each item that the child finds is celebrated by the staff who know how much happiness and joy it brings to the child.

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 registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (1)(b) (3)(a)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	29 September 2025

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: 2694810

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Empower Residential Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 2, Prockters Farm, West Monkton,
Taunton Somerset TA2 8QN

Responsible individual: Simon Morton

Registered manager: Katie Bennett

Inspector

Gary Turney, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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

© Crown copyright 2025