

2702037

Registered provider: City of Doncaster Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is managed by a local authority. It is registered to provide care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

There are currently three children living in the home. All three children were spoken to as part of this inspection.

The home has a suitably qualified registered manager.

Inspection dates: 22 and 23 July 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: 31 July 2024

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
31/07/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/09/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff are committed to providing a stable environment for children and children say they feel listened to and that staff invest in spending time with them. Children spoke warmly of their relationships with staff, and one child said how much they enjoyed the range of activities that they are offered while living at the home.

Children are encouraged to share their views and are confident in doing so. Their choices are reflected in day-to-day decisions, and they understand how to raise concerns. Children have accessed the complaints process and received clear feedback, demonstrating a culture of listening and accountability.

Education is seen as a priority and staff have worked with professionals to ensure that children are supported to attend education and progress their learning. Achievements are celebrated, and staff will challenge other professionals to ensure that education packages are robust and meet the needs of the children.

Transitions into the home are well managed. Children feel welcomed and are supported to visit, meet staff and other children, and personalise their bedrooms before moving in. This approach helps children feel prepared and involved in their transition. The home environment supports both shared and individual needs, offering privacy and communal space.

Children benefit from timely access to specialist support. Care planning is robust, and multi-agency working is well established. Plans are regularly reviewed, and information is shared effectively, allowing children to receive consistent help to manage their feelings and behaviours.

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

Staff have a good understanding of the potential risks associated with the children who live in the home. Staff have developed good relationships with the children's social workers and other professionals working with them. This promotes clear care planning.

When children have gone missing from the home, there is a well-coordinated response to initially find them and share information with relevant professionals. Independent return home interviews are offered to children if they go missing, and their responses are noted for team members to review.

Risk Assessments are updated following any incidents and staff have the opportunity to review any updates. The children receive support from specialist services in a timely way that helps them understand their behaviour and potential triggers.

Children can identify a trusted staff member and are encouraged to share any concerns they may have. Children have a named key worker who knows them well, and there are lots of opportunities to capture any issues that children have and to offer support and reassurance. This helps children to feel safe.

Staff rarely use physical restraints to manage children's behaviour, and sanctions and restrictions are used sparingly. Children are always encouraged to talk about any incident that has happened in a safe and supportive environment.

Staff receive specialist training that helps them safely care for the children. Staff are trained in therapeutic crisis intervention, which enables them to de-escalate situations and reduce the need for physical intervention. This consistent, restorative approach helps children feel secure and respected.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is visible within the home and knows the children well. The registered manager regularly monitors the quality of care provided for the children and provides good management oversight. They measure the children's progress and encourage staff to celebrate success. This makes the children feel proud and good about themselves.

The registered manager has addressed feedback from the previous inspection through a clear and purposeful action plan. Areas for further development are identified, and the registered manager works collaboratively with senior leaders to drive improvements in practice and outcomes for children.

Strong partnership working underpins effective care planning. The registered manager maintains positive relationships with a range of external agencies, ensuring consistency and clarity in planning. Placement decisions follow a thorough matching process, with professionals' views sought to ensure that the needs of all children are considered.

Staff and managers receive regular supervision that supports professional reflection and focuses on children's plans. The home is appropriately resourced, and recruitment processes ensure staff are suitably vetted. Staff report feeling well supported by the registered manager, who maintains an open-door policy and promotes a responsive working environment.

While staff training is well established for permanent team members, the use of agency staff presents a shortfall. A comprehensive training plan is not yet in place to ensure that agency workers meet the mandatory requirements for working in a children's home.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)) In particular, all staff in a care role, including external agency or bank staff, must have the qualification in regulation 32(4) within the relevant timescale.	26 September 2025

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: 2702037

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: City of Doncaster Council

Registered provider address: Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BU

Responsible individual: Rebecca Stewart

Registered manager: Antony Cunningham

Inspector

Lisa Richards, Social Care Inspector

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