

2703224

Registered provider: Enabling Futures Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to 2 children with learning and/or physical disabilities. The home's statement of purpose states that it offers bespoke packages of care for children with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorder, behaviours of concern and/or mental health conditions.

There is a suitably qualified and experienced registered manager in post, who is also the registered manager of a second home on the same site.

One child was living in the home at the time of the inspection.

Inspection dates: 27 and 28 January 2026

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

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
---	-------------

The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 26 July 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/07/2024	Full	Good
19/09/2023	Full	Outstanding
14/11/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

The child is at the heart of this home. The manager and staff have cultivated a safe, playful and emotionally secure environment that enables the child to relax, express themselves and engage with the team. Staff are clearly committed to promoting the child's achievements and celebrate success, however small, through both structured activities and informal engagement. The child-focused ethos ensures that care is not only responsive but also deeply personalised and therapeutic. The child thrives from the care of an exceptionally resourceful team.

The child has a strong and meticulous routine, which is very import for their overall emotional health and wellbeing. Despite the challenges and difficulties, staff provide exceptional consistency, continuity and high nurture, even in the face of adversity. This supports the child in feeling safe and secure in their own home.

Staff consistently demonstrate acceptance and appreciation for the child's individuality, creating a culture where they feel valued and understood. The child's personality flourishes when regulated, and equally when dysregulated. The child is respected and nurtured and, because of this, has made sustained progress in different aspects of their life.

Staff demonstrate a deep understanding of the child's individual needs, particularly in relation to their social, emotional wellbeing and communication needs. They have access to a wide range of tools and strategies to support effective communication. These are used alongside verbal communication to ensure that she can have a voice, make choices, be heard and listened to.

The child is encouraged to attend and engage with the bespoke in-house education, which is delivered by a tutor with staff support. The tutor has established what the child already knows and has established individual learning based on their needs and interests. Despite the challenges of the past year, staff work very creatively with the education tutor to make sure that the child has positive education experiences. This supports the child to engage with education and make progress.

Staff provide regular opportunities for the child to share their thoughts, feelings and views. This ensures that the activities provided are of interest to them. The child enjoys a range of activities, including cooking, walking and spending time in the community. For example, they visit local zoos and play centres. Staff explore the child's identity and cultural needs with them to ensure that they are supported to thrive. This supports the child to feel a sense of belonging and respect.

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

The child is effectively safeguarded, with highly consistent support provided following any incidents. There is a strong emphasis on healing and recovery for the child. There is an open culture where reflective conversations with staff are thorough, with a strong focus on understanding events from all perspectives. Staff continually develop their skills and approaches, ensuring the ongoing wellbeing of the child. Managers promote a psychologically safe environment for staff, which enables them to remain resilient and responsive in their support of the child.

The child demonstrated that they have developed trusted relationships with staff. Staff speak warmly about the child and maintain a positive and compassionate approach, even during challenging times. The staff are consistent and thorough in understanding the child's past experiences and how these can influence their behaviours. They always offer positive, unconditional regard. Praise, positive reinforcement and the celebration of achievements are embedded in daily practice. This approach helps the child to develop their self-esteem and feel safe.

There is a strong and shared understanding that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding practice in the home extends beyond the child in the staff's immediate care. They consider risks to the child in a wider context. For example, staff take proactive steps and positive risks to safeguard the child when going out into the community. This enhances the child's experiences and opportunities.

Incident records are exceptionally detailed and provide a thorough narrative, which ensures substantial transparency. Highly effective plans are reviewed regularly and effectively monitored to minimise risks inside and outside in the community. Risk assessments and positive behaviour plans provide detailed information about the child's historical and current risks. They offer detailed guidance to staff around the use of de-escalation techniques and methods that are helpful to the child.

The use of physical intervention is well recorded, reviewed and monitored, and the use of any measure is proportionate and necessary. Staff take opportunities to use de-escalation techniques and relationship-based care to address challenging situations. Staff's practice learning and development ensures that they understand what is behind the child's actions. The child's safety, welfare and well-being are very important to managers and central to an emotionally resilient workforce that provides high-quality care.

Medication systems and quality assurance processes are thorough and secure. Senior staff are trained in medication administration and undertake refresher training yearly. Senior meetings are held fortnightly with managers, where medication is a standard agenda item and discussed. The managers also speak weekly to the child's doctor to review medication. This ensures that there are no medication errors and that the child is getting the best possible medical input and care.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The manager demonstrates unquestionably strong leadership and is highly respected by the staff team and child. She is instrumental in creating a culture of high aspiration and high-quality care for the child in her care. The manager speaks about the child with deep affection and a strong sense of responsibility. They consistently advocate for the child, to ensure that they receive the highest standard of care and support and what is in their best interests.

The management team demonstrates a strong ambition for both staff and children. Through their leadership, they have fostered an environment of stability and safety, allowing the child to thrive. Through the manager's persistence and dedication, she has cultivated a positive and motivated team, resulting in consistent, high-quality nurture that supports the child's development and wellbeing. Their deep understanding of the child and their ability to build a meaningful relationship with them is highly commendable.

The manager's unwavering commitment to the child is evident in the decisive and persistent actions she takes to ensure that their needs are comprehensively met. She is highly consistent and promptly escalates and challenges concerns externally when standards fall short, or when needs are not being met, reinforcing a culture of accountability. There are practices and developments that the manager has cultivated that are worthy of wider dissemination. For example, the collaborative work completed with a restraint reduction consultant and the work with the family and social worker to map the child's journey. This has given significant insight into the child's needs to enhance their care as they move into adulthood.

Staff are exceptionally well supported by the management team. The inspector consistently heard and observed that staff feel highly valued, included and empowered to make a meaningful impact in the child's life. They spoke with genuine enthusiasm about their work, highlighting the range of development opportunities available to them. These sentiments were not only shared verbally but were also observed in the child's relationships with staff during the inspection.

The staff show incredible resilience and are meticulous in working with the child, particularly during times of crisis because there is an acceptance of the reasons behind each behaviour. The high-quality support provided for staff means that the child is cared for by motivated, inspiring and committed people.

Staff say that they feel supported and have confidence in the manager. Regular team meetings, one-to-one sessions, appraisals and work-based assessment offer a variety of learning and development. Reflections from case studies are informative and continue to develop a strong and confident base for the team. This solid foundation creates a solid, positive team of staff who are all consistent and passionate about the home and especially the child.

Quality assurance process and systems are robust. They are highly effective in promoting positive practice and continuous improvement. This supports the staff to remain responsive to the child's evolving and changing needs. There is a strong culture of nurture and thoughtful adaptation, with revised practices introduced to better support them.

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: 2703224

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Enabling Futures Ltd

Registered provider address: The Coach House, Millbrook House Estate, Manchester Road, Hollingworth, Cheshire SK14 8LA

Responsible individual: Terence Dornan

Registered manager: Sophia Ali

Inspector

Thirza Smith, 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 2026