

2720875

Registered provider: ECS Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It offers care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2023.

Inspection dates: 27 and 28 May 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: 28 May 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
28/05/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child living at the home was spoken to as part of the inspection.

Since the last inspection, one child has remained living in the home. Staff know the child well and understand their needs. They have built positive relationships with the child and provide emotional support through meaningful conversations.

The child's health needs are met. Staff promote a healthy lifestyle for the child. When necessary, they seek specialist health advice. Staff make sure that the child has the information they need to make informed decisions about their health.

The child is making progress in education from their individual starting point. Staff arrange for the child to access online learning to overcome the difficulties they face in attending a formal school environment. As a result, the child has improved their engagement with their education. Staff are supportive of the child's interests and ambitions. They provide opportunities for the child to pursue potential career options.

The child's views are regularly sought. Staff engage the child in weekly meetings and regularly seek their feedback on their care. This helps staff improve practice in line with the child's wishes and feelings.

The child's plans are up to date and personalised to their needs. Plans are written in line with local authority reviews; however, not all local authority documentation for children held on file is up to date.

Staff are proud of the child. They celebrate and reward their milestones and achievements. Staff ensure that the child's positive experiences are documented in a memory book. This captures the child's memories and provides a keepsake for when they move on from the home.

Staff promote the child's independence. They include the child in the weekly budgeting and shopping and encourage them to participate in daily chores. This helps to prepare the child for independent living.

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

Staff understand the child's risks and know how to keep them safe. They promote positive behaviour through clear and consistent boundaries and expectations.

The child's plans include all known risks and behaviours. There is clear guidance for staff to follow, and the strategies identified are personal to the child. They include a clear and thorough plan to monitor the child's internet and mobile phone use. The plan is kept

under regular review with the child. The strategies in place allow the child to have safe access to devices.

The child's risk of exploitation has decreased. Staff work closely with the exploitation team to support the child. They have made use of their expertise and resources when the child has struggled to engage with external professionals. This helps the child to access the support they need.

Staff understand the child's risk of substance misuse. They carry out room searches when needed, in line with the child's plans. They work with the child to educate them on the dangers of misusing substances.

The risks of the child going missing from home have reduced. Staff are aware of the child's whereabouts and support them in returning home if they do not comply with their curfew. Strong managerial oversight of incidents involving the child being missing from the home ensures the prompt identification and resolution of shortfalls in staff practice. Incidents are discussed during team meetings, giving staff opportunities to reflect on practice and identify lessons learned.

Safer recruitment processes are followed. The manager takes steps to ensure that only suitable staff work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is an experienced and confident manager in post. The manager has a strong relationship with the child and a good understanding of their needs. She prioritises time with the child to explore their wishes and feelings, and she involves them in their care planning.

Staff support the child in spending positive time with their family. The manager has helped the child to re-establish relationships with their family after a significant period without contact. The child said that they could not have asked for a better person to support them in reuniting with their family. The child's parent said that the manager is understanding and supportive of any worries they may have regarding their child.

Staff speak highly of the manager. They say that they are well supported. One member of staff spoke positively of the manager's support and understanding around their learning needs.

There are gaps in the manager's monitoring and review of the child's progress and the effectiveness of the care they receive. For example, there is not sufficient evaluation of consequences implemented for the child. This is a missed opportunity to continually improve the quality of care that staff provide to ensure that children can achieve their full potential.

The staff team is suitably trained to meet the child's needs. Staff demonstrate professional curiosity and show genuine interest in the use of different strategies to support 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 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— understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f)(h)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that there is effective management oversight of children's care, including children's records and the use of consequences.	25 July 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that placing authorities are consistently challenged when there are delays in providing relevant plans for children to contribute to effective care planning. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 12, paragraph 2.8)

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: 2720875

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: ECS Care Limited

Registered provider address: 57 Sonning Avenue, Liverpool L21 9JG

Responsible individual: Carl Pixton

Registered manager: Karolina Paul

Inspector

Hayley Smith, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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