

2728982

Registered provider: Bradford Children and Families Trust

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by Bradford Children and Families Trust on behalf of a local authority. It provides care for up to 4 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered at the home with Ofsted since January 2026.

There were 2 children living at the home at the time of this inspection, and both children were spoken to.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 June 2026

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: 2 December 2025

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
02/12/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/08/2025	Full	Inadequate
12/08/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
03/07/2023	Full	Good

Summary of findings

The home has made huge improvements since the last inspection due to the new management. Visually, the home is more aesthetically pleasing, which the children were encouraged to get involved in.

The manager has implemented a transparent and robust monitoring system. Lots of support and training has been given to staff to improve areas such as report writing. This is ongoing and requires further work.

There has been a big improvement in how staff respond to children's risks to actively reduce them. Furthermore, relationships among staff have improved due to the manager working hard to improve staff practice. Laughter from children and staff can now be heard echoing around the home.

All of these improvements have changed the home to a home that is warm and welcoming for children and staff.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff provide the children with structure, boundaries and consistent, nurturing care. This helps the children to form positive relationships with staff. Children are heard laughing with staff and enjoy being in each other's company.

Children have made good progress with their education and are sitting their GCSE exams. Staff support children to consider their next education options to choose from for the start of the new academic year.

Children's health needs are promoted by staff, who have a good understanding of their individual needs. Staff respond well to any immediate health concerns that arise. Those who have good relationships with the children and who children feel most comfortable dealing with sensitive health topics deal with such topics.

When consequences have been used, these have been proportionate and natural. For example, if any damage was caused to the home, the children are supported by staff to clean it up. This allows for learning opportunities for the children.

Children take part in a range of activities that they have an interest in, such as baking or sporting activities and attending the gym. When children have different interests, these are managed well by staff so that children get the opportunity to do the activities of their choice. Children have enjoyed holidays to Poland and climbing a mountain in Wales.

Children's voices are heard and captured well, with children receiving written feedback from the manager and deputy manager when they have participated in monthly chats with the staff.

Staff promote and support children to have time with people that are important to them. The manager has advocated for additional family time when it is felt this is beneficial for the children. Staff encourage children to spend time with their friends when safe and appropriate to do so. However, staff do not always do enough to try and build positive relationships with the children's families.

The staff team has put in tremendous effort to enhance the home. They have created a bright, welcoming and homely atmosphere, with the children being involved in choosing the colour scheme, soft furnishings and pictures for the walls.

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

Children said that they feel safe and supported. Children speak positively about staff, and positive relationships help children seek support when needed. Children are comfortable to approach staff for help and reassurance and to have conversations.

Staff understand children's risks and take appropriate action to safeguard them. These include risks linked to substance misuse, possible exploitation, debt problems, unsafe associations and children being in places where they may be at risk. Staff respond promptly when concerns increase. Staff contact police and liaise with social workers, and they increase their vigilance, such as completing room searches when needed. Staff complete direct work with children about safety, healthy relationships and online risks. This helps children to understand risk and make safer choices.

Staff respond appropriately when children are missing from the home or away without agreement. Incident records show that staff search local areas, call and text children, contact professionals and family members and check places where children may be. This helps to return the children quickly to the home. When children return, they are given the opportunity to speak to someone independent to the home.

Staff take a proportionate approach to support children's independence. They understand each child's level of need and tailor support accordingly. Staff are attuned to the children's routines, interests, education and independence needs. This helps children experience stability, safety and a sense of belonging.

The quality of the children's written plans and management oversight requires improvement. Some plans do not clearly set out what staff should do in specific circumstances. The shortfall relates to the quality of the plans and oversight rather than staff's day-to-day safeguarding practice. Leaders recognise that improvement is needed and have begun to strengthen written records. However, these improvements are not yet consistently embedded.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced. The manager provides support to a stable staff team that has worked at the home for a long time. Staff report that the home has greatly improved since the last inspection, with the staff team being more cohesive. This has improved things for children.

Children have good relationships with leaders and managers and are comfortable seeking them out. Senior managers are highly visible in the home and have positive relationships with the children. The atmosphere and relationships in the home replicate a family environment.

The manager is a good advocate for children and challenges other professionals, when necessary, while also maintaining those important relationships to a good standard. Professionals report how working with the manager and staff is a positive experience and how the staff team knows the children well.

Supervision records show that the staff have different experiences. This is dependent on who the supervisor is. Some sessions are reflective, informative and supportive, with the manager offering advice and guidance. In comparison, records show that other staff do not appear to have the support or guidance they require.

Team meetings are held regularly and are reflective and child focused. These meetings allow the staff an opportunity to engage in collaborative discussions about how they can further promote positive care for children.

The manager provides consistent oversight of the home, promoting the use of therapeutic language in all written records. While this has led to notable improvements, some staff continue to intermittently use language and tones that do not align with good practice for supporting children.

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 positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(x))	8 August 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 2728982

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Bradford Children and Families Trust

Registered provider address: Sir Henry Mitchell House (5th Floor), 4 Manchester Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD5 0QL

Responsible individual: Patsy Burrows

Registered manager: Joshua Britton

Inspectors

Angela Ross, Social Care Inspector
Saira Rafiq, Social Care Inspector

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