

2729749

Registered provider: Bradford Children's and Families Trust

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by Bradford Children and Families Trust on behalf of a local authority. The home provides care for up to 10 children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children can stay at the home on a short-break arrangement or live permanently at the home.

There has been no registered manager at the home since September 2023. A new manager started on 1 September 2025 and is still to make their application to register with Ofsted.

Four children were living at the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 23 and 24 September 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 10 June 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: This home was judged inadequate at the full inspection in June 2025. Ofsted issued two compliance notices under regulations 13 and 27 of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015. A monitoring visit was carried out on 7 August 2025, and the trust had met the steps associated with the respective compliance notices.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/06/2025	Full	Inadequate
11/06/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/08/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

Children's experiences of care are steadily improving. However, there remain fundamental issues that are undermining staff's ability to consistently provide good levels of care.

Important aspects of the children's care are not always clearly communicated to the child's social worker. Consequently, this undermines the social worker's ability to effectively and confidently make important decisions in the child's best interests. One example involves the lack of information sharing with a social worker about the influence that a child's deprivation of liberty order is having on this child's life.

There is good planning associated with children moving on from the home. This is done at the child's pace. Furthermore, the manager has ensured that children have advocates to promote the child's views in this process. Indeed, all significant individuals associated with the child are consulted and involved in the planning. Although, in one instance, poor information sharing created an unnecessary issue to be resolved in respect of a child's proposed move.

All children's bedrooms are well presented and personalised. Furthermore, staff have added photo displays to the walls in communal areas that show children enjoying outings with staff. These efforts have injected a sense of home and personality into the home environment.

Staff sensitively support children when they are grieving loved ones. Moreover, the positive working relationships with children's families ensure that the child's needs and wishes are acted on. This enables the child to feel that they are consulted and involved in funeral arrangements for their loved one.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Staff respond quickly and effectively to children's medical emergencies that involve children. However, there are gaps in the recording of significant events. Therefore, the manager's ability to evaluate, promote reflective practice and implement plans to reduce risks associated with the children's health and well-being is significantly undermined.

Staff cannot easily access important written records, such as children's behaviour plans. This is due to children's paper files being bloated with outdated documents. Additionally, there are contradictory statements across the children's written records. Therefore, children's written records cannot always be relied on. This undermines staff's ability and confidence to apply guidance that they may require to keep children safer.

The responsibility to oversee the management of children's medication belongs to one member of senior staff. Although there are plans to train more staff to oversee this responsibility, these were not in place at the time of the inspection. Furthermore, staff do not have clear guidance about things to consider before administering over-the-counter medication to children, such as paracetamol.

Children consistently go to a range of healthcare professionals. Additionally, staff have established good links with healthcare providers, such as the epilepsy nurse. Staff have clear plans to guide them in recognising and responding to children who suffer seizures.

The home has continued to be blighted by anti-social behaviour around the home's perimeter. The staff and manager continue to engage positively with the police to raise the profile of the home in the community.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The home continues to operate without a registered manager. However, a new manager has been appointed. The manager has made good efforts to include staff in resolving the shortfalls associated with the functioning of the home. Importantly, in a short space of time, the manager has worked hard to learn about the children and their plans.

There remain some unresolved issues in the team that need to be resolved as these issues continue to undermine the care of the children. The manager has implemented frequent staff meetings in the hope of creating a whole team approach in respect of the care of the children. Additionally, leaders are aware that staff need the opportunity to reflect on past work experiences that remain unresolved to them.

The manager said that their induction has been supportive. Furthermore, leaders have ensured that the manager has appropriate levels of support and resources. Likewise, new staff say that their induction to the home has been a positive experience. As a result, new employees are better supported to adapt to their new role.

Leaders continue to review the backlog of staff training to address identified knowledge gaps. Some staff are already benefiting from this. One member of staff said that their training was 'so powerful, it makes you realise the importance of our role'. Investing in staff training aims to equip staff to meet the needs of the children while making staff feel more valued and supported to carry out their role.

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
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans; and if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (a)(c))	1 November 2025
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 work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on—	1 November 2025

research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(c)(e)(g)(i)(h))	
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; and are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1) (b))	1 November 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that medicines are administered in line with a medically approved protocol. In particular, staff should have clear guidance for administering non-prescribed medication to children. Additionally, ensure sufficient numbers of staff are trained to carry out medication audits. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35, paragraph 7.15)
- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, and they should understand the key role they play in the training and development of staff in the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)

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: 2729749

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Bradford Children's 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: Post vacant

Inspector

Steve Guirey, Social Care Inspector

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