

2732651

Registered provider: Cherish Childrens Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a private children's home that is registered to care for up to two children. The home's statement of purpose states that children living in this home may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered in April 2024. She is appropriately experienced and working towards the required qualification for her role.

There were two children living in the home at the time of the inspection. The inspectors spoke with both children living at the home.

Inspection dates: 6 and 7 August 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: 16 October 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
16/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/08/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have positive, caring and trusting relationships with staff. The staff team know children well, invest time in them and celebrate their achievements. Children have staff they can talk to about how they are feeling. Social workers provided positive feedback about the quality of care and the positive impact living in the home has had on their well-being and progress. Children's individual care plans effectively evidence and track the progress that children make while living in their home.

Children's engagement in education is positive. One child's school attendance has significantly improved in the last few weeks. The child's social worker reported that this was excellent progress for the child, who has had a long period out of education. Another child has been supported to engage in voluntary work in the community alongside their college course. The staff team advocates for children to ensure that they are provided with opportunities to support their educational potential.

The staff team supports children to be healthy and to promote positive well-being. Staff follow up on referrals to external health professionals to ensure that children's health needs are met. Children have routines in place to support them to engage in regular exercise and to promote healthy lifestyles. All children have access to the homes in house therapeutic practitioner. She attends the home weekly and attends team meetings to deliver training associated with children's needs. She also has oversight of any significant incidents or emotional well-being concerns for children.

Children receive support to enjoy their recreational time. They spend time with their friends, doing activities of their choice and spending quality time with staff. Family time is promoted in line with children's wishes. Children spend time together on activities and have a joint holiday to Paris planned for the summer holidays.

Direct sessions with children are tailored to meet their immediate support needs. The manager oversees these sessions to monitor progress and ensure that staff are offering appropriate guidance and intervention. Where follow-up sessions are required, there is clear evidence that these are carried out to explore issues in greater depth. Children's views, wishes, and feelings are regularly captured through monthly consultations with their keyworker or the manager, helping them feel heard and valued.

The staff team is actively supporting one child in preparation for their transition to independence within the coming year. The manager is working with the placing authority to develop a well-considered plan for this move. The child's independence plan includes activities such as budgeting, shopping, and self-care, delivered at a pace suited to their individual needs. Staff are consistently engaged in helping the child overcome any challenges, ensuring the transition is both positive and empowering.

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

Children are kept safe and feel safe in the home. Staff have a good understanding of children's risks and triggers to their behaviour. Children's risk assessments provide staff with the information and risk reduction strategies that they require to work with children and to keep them safe. There is evidence of some children's risks having reduced. Their positive relationships with staff enable children to be transparent about their risk behaviour so that they can be helped to make safer choices and be allowed to take age-appropriate risks.

There has been no use of restraint since the last inspection. Staff implement clear routines, boundaries and de-escalation strategies to help children to manage their behaviours effectively. Children respond well to these. Rewards out way the use of consequences and they are linked to positive behaviours. Some consequences used do not always help children to recognise the impact of their behaviour as the measure used does not always fit the behaviour. The manager has not identified this in her oversight of the records.

One child was reported missing from the home during the inspection. However, there has been a reduction in incidents of missing from home. The staff team has worked alongside children's placing authorities to agree age-appropriate free time, curfews and to explore who children spend time with and agree who is deemed safe for them to socialise with. Missing-from-home incident records demonstrate that staff are proactive in their attempts to locate children, and they consistently follow agreed protocols.

Staff act promptly to any incidents of self-injury, when they have suspected that children may have had illegal substances in the home and to explore concerns associated with children's use of social media. They make safe and balanced decisions that consider the potential outcome for children.

A local police officer has carried out educational work with children related to online safety. In addition, the therapeutic practitioner directs staff with helpful work they can undertake with children to broaden their understanding of the risks of exploitation. For one child this has helped them to start to recognise healthy relationships. Staff carry out regular spot checks on children's phones, however, these are not recorded to evidence the action they have taken.

The staff team works well with safeguarding professionals, such as the exploitation team, missing-from-home coordinators and sexual health agencies. This has helped them to support children when they have made disclosures and to access support from additional services. Staff respond sensitively to any safeguarding matters to ensure that children feel supported to raise concerns.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager knows the children well. She understands their progress and areas that they require additional support to promote their life chances. She advocates well for

children by challenging other professionals, to help children achieve their potential. She maintains a professional joint working relationship with children's social workers and placing authorities.

The manager is confident in her role. She has reflected on the home's last inspection and used this to drive improvements. Her development plan is child focused. The manager uses it to identify ways of improving children's experiences in the home and to upskill her staff team. The manager has significantly improved her oversight of all children's records, incidents and systems. This ensures that she knows what is going on for children and her staff team. It also means that there have been improvements in the quality of care for children.

There is now a full staff team in place. This has brought continuity of care for children and stability in the staff team. Staff are well supported by the manager, and this has promoted positive staff morale. Team meetings are used effectively to share key information and changes to children's plans.

Staff receive regular practice-related supervisions. This is an opportunity to explore children's needs and to develop the knowledge and skills of staff. However, senior leaders do not provide the manager with regular formal supervision, to ensure that she has protected time to review her practice, her leadership skills and to check on her well-being. New staff receive a thorough induction and appropriate training for their role. The manager ensures that all staff are kept up to date on refresher training and training that is specific to the needs of children in their care.

There have been no complaints from children since the last inspection. Both the manager and staff team work positively with the neighbours to address any low-level concerns, to ensure that they do not escalate to serious concerns or formal complaints. Consequently, relationship building with neighbours has significantly improved.

The independent visitor frequently does not obtain feedback from children or their families about the impact of the quality of care on children's experiences. This is a missed opportunity to obtain children's thoughts about their care. However, the manager's review of the quality-of-care report includes a variety of feedback from children and everyone involved in their care to provide an effective evaluation of the impact of the service on children's lives.

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, 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
When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (2)(a))	19 September 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are alert to the possibility that children may be at risk from such relationships including with other children in the home, staff, family members, friends and others outside the home, and they therefore should take appropriate steps to protect a child where there are concerns for a child's safety. Specifically, when children's mobile phone spot checks are carried out by staff, all checks, any concerns identified and the action that has been taken should be recorded. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.13)
- The registered person should ensure that any sanctions used to address poor behaviour should be restorative in nature, to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour on themselves, other children, the staff caring for them and the wider community. Specifically, consequences given to children should always align with the child's behaviour and a clear evaluation of the effectiveness of the measure should be recorded when it has been reviewed by the manager. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.38)
- The registered person should have systems in place so that the manager receives supervision of their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional, which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. Specifically, the manager should be provided with protected time to receive regular practice related supervisions from their line manager. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

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: 2732651

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cherish Childrens Care Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 8a, Skyways Commercial Campus, Amy Johnson Way, Blackpool FY4 3RS

Responsible individual: Alexandra Wood

Registered manager: Amy Smith

Inspectors

Cheryl Field, Social Care Inspector
Debbie Dawson, Social Care Inspector

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