

2734662

Registered provider: GAC FAMILY SERVICES LIMITED

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned. It is registered to provide care for up to 2 children with emotional and social difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, there were 2 children living at the home. Both children were spoken to as part of the inspection.

The manager registered in June 2024. Current plans are for the deputy manager to register as manager in June 2026 when the current manager goes on maternity leave.

Inspection dates: 21 and 22 April 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. The actions of the children's home contribute to improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 9 September 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/09/2025	Full	Good
02/01/2025	Full	Good
19/12/2023	Full	Good

Summary of findings

Children are cared for by committed and nurturing staff who understand their individual needs. Children benefit from strong, trusting relationships, effective safeguarding practice and meaningful opportunities to develop their independence and confidence.

Children are making good progress from their starting points and live in a stable, nurturing and genuinely homely environment. Leaders and managers have created a positive culture that prioritises relationships, safety and individual progress.

Leaders and managers provide stability and clear direction. While challenges remain, particularly in relation to incidents of a child going missing from care, these are actively managed with resilience, persistence and a child-centred approach.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff work hard to ensure that children live in a warm, stable and genuinely homely environment. The house is well maintained, personalised and does not feel institutional. Personal touches, such as photographs and individualised bedroom spaces, help children to develop a strong sense of belonging. The home celebrates children's achievements, with visible recognition throughout, including praise and incentive systems that promote positive behaviour.

Children's views are central to practice. There is a strong culture of listening, and children are supported to express themselves in ways that suit their needs and preferences. Staff respond meaningfully to children's views, ensuring they feel heard, respected and valued. Children say that they feel comfortable approaching staff for support.

Relationships between staff and children are a significant strength of the home. Observations during the inspection evidenced consistently warm, nurturing and trusting interactions. Children confidently approach staff for reassurance, guidance and support, demonstrating a strong sense of emotional security. Notably, children who have previously experienced difficulties in forming relationships are now developing positive and meaningful connections, including with male role models. Strong attachments are clearly evident, even for those children who spend periods of time away from the home, as they continue to maintain close and secure emotional bonds with staff.

Education is prioritised. Staff demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting children's aspirations. For example, staff have researched and explained realistic pathways to support a child's ambition of becoming a veterinary nurse. They have also supported another child's interest in gaming and technology by securing access to a coding programme. Staff advocate effectively with external professionals, particularly in

addressing delays in education planning. This demonstrates the home's commitment to helping children achieve their potential.

Children are making meaningful progress across different areas of their lives. Staff actively promote confidence and independence. For example, one child has developed the confidence to attend community activities more independently, such as visiting a hairdresser. This has had a positive impact on other areas of their development, including education and social engagement.

Children are supported to engage with their local community and wider experiences. They participate in activities such as charity events and holidays, which broaden their experiences and support their social development.

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

Children say that they feel safe and secure in the home. Staff promote an open and enabling culture that balances children's need for independence with appropriate safeguarding measures.

Risk assessments are detailed, regularly reviewed and tailored to individual children. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of behaviours and are able to identify early signs of distress, enabling timely and appropriate intervention. Staff use professional judgement effectively, supported by ongoing training.

Care planning is effective and well coordinated. Key-work sessions are purposeful, reflective and responsive to children's evolving needs. Partnership working with families and professionals is strong, contributing to a shared understanding of children's needs and ensuring consistent support.

There has been an increase in incidents of one child going missing from care. While this remains an area of concern, staff respond consistently and proactively, following robust procedures. Importantly, the strength of relationships means that the child often shares information about their whereabouts and returns home. Return home interviews are consistently encouraged, and professionals are kept well informed. The strong relationships between staff and the child continue to act as a protective factor.

Behaviour management is proportionate and restorative. Children understand expectations and view staff responses as fair. This supports positive engagement and accountability. For example, a child was observed calmly discussing a plan to take responsibility for damage caused. There have been no incidents of physical intervention, reflecting the effectiveness of de-escalation strategies and relational practice.

Health arrangements are safe and well managed. Medication systems are robust and subject to regular audit and oversight. While children are not currently self-administering medication, this is appropriately reviewed in line with individual care planning.

The home environment is physically safe, with effective health and safety systems in place. Necessary safety measures, including fire safety equipment, are present and maintained in a way that preserves the home's warm and homely feel.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders and managers provide effective and consistent oversight of the home. They promote a positive culture where children's welfare, safety and progress are central.

Senior leaders demonstrate thoughtful forward planning. Arrangements to cover the manager's maternity leave are being carefully considered to ensure continuity of leadership and stability for children.

Managers are developing creative and reflective ways to evidence children's progress, including the use of visual methods, such as videos. This supports both reflection and the celebration of achievements.

The staff team is stable, committed and works well together. Staff morale is high and there is a strong sense of shared purpose. This consistency is particularly important given children's previous experiences of instability.

Staff are well trained and supported. There is a clear focus on ongoing professional development, with most staff progressing towards relevant qualifications. Reflective practice is embedded through team meetings, debriefs and learning from incidents.

Managers maintain strong and effective relationships with external professionals, including social workers, education providers and families. This ensures a coordinated and consistent approach to care planning and delivery in children's lives.

The manager has ensured that they have met the requirements from the last inspection. However, there remains a delay in the regulation 44 reports being submitted to the regulator. This has impacted the capacity of the regulator to review and report on the monthly independent person's visits and findings.

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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h)) The provider must submit regulation reports in line with process timescales.	22 June 2026

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: 2734662

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: GAC FAMILY SERVICES LIMITED

Registered provider address: Unit 29a, The Link, 49 Effra Road, London SW2 1BZ

Responsible individual: Mark Easie

Registered manager: Klaudia Kryczka

Inspectors

Simon Hunter, Social Care Inspector

Theresa Kambani, Social Care Inspector

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