

2736722

Registered provider: The Smith Foundation

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a registered charity and provides care for up to 4 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager's post is vacant. An interim manager is in post and has applied to register with Ofsted.

At the time of the inspection, 3 children were living at the home. The inspector spoke with all the children.

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 February 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	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 provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 11 March 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/03/2025	Full	Outstanding
20/02/2024	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff continue to provide continuity of care for 2 children since the home opened and have welcomed another child into the home since the last inspection. Children are helped to engage in activities and encouraged to try new experiences. Their health and learning needs are well supported by staff, who know the children well. However, shortfalls in the help and protection of children and the effectiveness of leadership and management of the home are identified as areas for improvement.

Since the last inspection, one child has received a well-planned move into the home. The manager gathered information about the child to ensure that the staff have the skills to meet the needs of all children in their care. Planned introductions to the home took place, with the child meeting staff and peers before they moved in. This helped the child to start to develop relationships at an early stage. The child's views were listened to about the timing of their move.

Children develop trusting relationships with staff, and this is a strength of the home. Positive interactions between staff and children were observed during the inspection. The children are comfortable in their home, with staff and the manager.

Children can enjoy new experiences on a regular basis. One child has enjoyed their first holiday abroad. Memories for children are captured in monthly reports and memory books for them to access now and later in life.

Staff understand the importance of children attending health appointments. All children are registered with a dentist, doctor and an optician. Staff work well with children who may otherwise struggle to attend appointments. For one child, staff prepared them well for a dental appointment to give them the best opportunity to engage.

Staff have access to a trained therapist, and all staff receive training to understand the trauma that some children may have experienced. Staff receive regular consultations with the therapist to help them reflect and explore children's changing needs.

Children have good school attendance and are engaged in their learning. Staff work well with education professionals and attend meetings about children's education. Staff work well with children to help them understand any barriers to attending school.

Staff ensure that children stay connected with their family and loved ones. Staff communicate well with families to keep them updated and are proactive in making arrangements for family time.

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

Children's plans are not sufficiently detailed to ensure that staff have strategies to support the children in their care. When children are awake at night, there is no guidance for how staff should respond to ensure that they are safe. One child's plan was not updated after their access to their phone changed. Although staff understood the reasoning for this change, there was no information about how this change would be reviewed.

Not all serious incidents are notified to Ofsted. During one incident where a child injured staff, the child was later heard to be screaming and damaging property in their bedroom at night. Despite this, the child's safety was not checked by staff. The manager did make further enquiries with staff during the inspection, but this was several weeks after the incident. There is a lack of professional curiosity by managers about staff practice to help develop lessons to be learned from incidents to reduce the risk of children being harmed.

When children are held as a last resort to keep them and others safe, not all records provide enough information to understand how a child has been held or for how long. One record did not accurately record when school staff attended the home and held the child during an ongoing physical intervention. In addition, not all staff involved in an incident are spoken with by the manager to be assured of the practice in the home.

Records of consequences to help a child learn from their actions are not well recorded. Therefore, when a consequence is put in place, there are no systems to ensure that the manager can review the effectiveness of it. This prevents the manager from being assured that the measure is appropriate for the child or provide an opportunity to evaluate what has helped the child.

There have been 2 allegations raised by children against staff since the last inspection. On both occasions, the allegations were well managed. The local authority designated officer and the children's social worker are informed of the allegations and decision-making is clearly recorded. Similarly, complaints by children are responded to well by the interim manager. On one occasion, the child was provided with a letter to help them understand how the manager had responded to their complaint and the reasons for their decision.

There have been no occasions when children have gone missing from the home. Staff understand what to do if this happens. One child has left the home when they have been upset but staff have stayed close to the child throughout to be assured of their safety. This is a positive example of staff responding to keep a child safe in the community.

The safe recruitment of staff to work in the home is embedded. Those employed at the home have appropriate checks in place to ensure that they are safe to work with children.

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

Leaders and managers do not have effective monitoring systems in place to review the quality of care for children. Audit systems have not highlighted the need for children's plans and records to be reviewed to ensure that staff are always responding appropriately to children to promote their safety and wellbeing.

Managers are aware of the strengths of the home but have not identified weaknesses or areas for improvement. Leaders and managers lack professional curiosity to understand how children are cared for on a day-to-day basis and therefore have not identified where improvements can be made. This includes their oversight of serious incidents involving children and staff.

The home has been without a registered manager since July 2025. The interim manager is knowledgeable about the children and has established relationships with children and staff.

Staff receive regular supervision sessions. These are further strengthened by reflective supervision sessions provided by a trained therapist. In addition, there are regular team meetings that take place for staff to discuss developments within the home. The minutes of the meetings do not provide a full note to demonstrate if there has been reflection about incidents in the home or learning that can be taken forward.

Not all staff achieve a qualification to work with children in a residential setting in timescales as set out in regulation. Two staff have passed the relevant date to achieve this.

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v)(vi)(b))	3 April 2026
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— 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;	3 April 2026

use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(f)(h))	
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(c))	3 April 2026
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—	3 April 2026

there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))	
The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children's home. The requirements are that— the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform. For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home. (Regulation 32 (2)(a) (3)(b) (4)(a)(b) (5)(a))	3 April 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: 2736722

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: The William Henry Smith School, Boothroyd Lane,
Brighouse HD6 3JW

Responsible individual: Michelle Cuffe

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Joanne Wallis, Social Care Inspector

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