

2748592

Registered provider: Island Choices Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2023.

Inspection dates: 9 and 10 September 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 2 January 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none



Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/01/2025	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child lives in a cosy, welcoming home. Their bedroom is decorated in line with their preferences, and they have their personal photos on display. This helps them feel proud of who they are and gives them a strong sense of belonging.

The child is making progress. They attend school regularly and have good attendance. They have grown in maturity and confidence and are becoming more independent. The child received an award from the local authority for 'growth and maturity'. The child's social worker attributed this to the support the child receives from staff.

The child is healthy. They have healthy routines and a healthy diet. Staff encourage the child to attend routine health appointments to ensure that their health needs are met.

Staff listen carefully to children. This creates an environment where they feel safe to express their feelings and know they will be heard. Regular child-led meetings provide opportunities for children to share their views about the home and suggest changes. Staff follow up on these discussions and provide feedback through a 'you said, we did' approach, ensuring that children see the impact of their voices.

The child is regularly praised and supported through a clear reward system that encourages positive behaviour. The goals are tailored to the child's needs and care plan. For example, they received a book for a positive first week at school, which boosted their confidence and encouraged them to keep trying.

The child receives calm and consistent support through staff kindness and clear strategies. This helps them manage difficult and overwhelming moments. The child engages in meaningful activities they enjoy, such as swimming, painting and meal preparation. This helps the child to feel involved and settled.

Children who move on from the home are assisted in doing so in a planned way. There is communication with the child and relevant professionals during the process, and staff maintain contact with the child following the move.

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

Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities. They recognise the value of multi-agency support for ensuring that children are safe. Safeguarding concerns are recorded and reported appropriately to social workers. However, the process for recording treatment and support offered following incidents lacks clarity, making it difficult to ensure that any necessary follow-up actions are carried out.

Consequences given to children to encourage positive behaviours are recorded. The registered manager does not yet have a system in place to monitor how effective these

consequences are. At the time of the inspection, a monitoring system was being developed but had not been put into practice. As a result, it is difficult to assess whether the consequences help children learn from their behaviours or make positive changes.

The child has positive relationships with staff. Staff are attuned to the child's needs, so the child can seek support freely from trusted adults. Staff greet the child with warmth and smiles when they return from school. There is an interest from staff to know how the child's day has been. This helps the child feel secure in the knowledge that they are wanted and loved in the home.

Staff demonstrate awareness of the child's needs. They anticipate difficulties and proactively prepare them for changes in the household, such as preparing them for another child moving into the home after a lengthy period alone. This fosters a supportive environment that encourages emotional regulation and independence.

Staff receive regular training in line with children's needs. The organisation's managers review staff training needs weekly, and the home's manager discusses training with staff during monthly meetings. Therefore, children receive care and support from staff with suitable skills to best support them.

The home follows safer recruitment procedures to ensure that suitable staff are employed.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager has led the home since it opened, building strong relationships with staff and the child. The manager spends time with the child by taking them to school, collecting them, and participating in different activities with them. This helps them understand their needs and make informed decisions about their care. After a difficult period of managing children's behaviours, the manager paused new admissions to focus fully on the child's recovery and well-being.

Staff feel supported by the registered manager and say that the working environment is positive. One staff member said, 'We are like a family.' Staff described the registered manager as 'approachable' and said that they care about their well-being. This contributes to a stable and nurturing environment.

Staff receive regular supervision and can seek support from the manager outside of formal supervision. However, the supervision records lack continuity, as previous actions are not consistently recorded to ensure accountability and support professional growth.

The registered manager maintains regular oversight of incidents. However, this is not always effective in promoting staff development. For example, a delay in identifying and addressing a practice concern hindered timely learning and improvement.

The registered manager works well with key professionals to best support children. Feedback from an external professional is positive. They commend the manager's ability



to work with them in the child's best interests and describe their communication as 'brilliant'. They attribute the child's progress to the support from staff.

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 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. (Regulation 36 (a)) In particular the registered manager should ensure that following incidents where children have been injured staff clearly record support offered.	11 December 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— 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; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (f)(g)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that areas of development regarding staff practice are highlighted and addressed as they arise. They must also ensure that they have a monitoring system in place to record any consequences implemented.	11 December 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that actions from supervision sessions are recorded and followed up to ensure accountability and support professional growth. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.4)

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: 2748592

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Island Choices Ltd

Registered provider address: East Quay, Kite Hill, Wootton Bridge, Ryde PO33 4LA

Responsible individual: William Stanbridge

Registered manager: Helen Gough

Inspector

Chido Mangava, Social Care Inspector

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