

2757606

Registered provider: Aden Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home registered with Ofsted in January 2025 and is privately owned. It provides care for up to 3 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, no children were living in the home.

The post for a registered manager has been vacant since October 2025.

The registered provider has appointed a new responsible individual, and we are currently checking this person has the relevant capacity, experience and skills to carry out the role.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 June 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.

Date of last inspection: 23 June 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/06/2025	Full	Good

Summary of findings

Leaders and managers are committed to ensuring that children have positive experiences and make good progress.

Staff have a good understanding of children's individual risks and needs. They take appropriate action to help keep children safe.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff consistently work to build trusting and nurturing relationships with children. They get to know children well and use this understanding to support their individual needs.

Staff are committed to ensuring that children experience positive endings. They communicate effectively with new carers to support children in settling into their new homes. The positive impact of the relationships between children and staff is reflected in a letter from a child who moved on, expressing thanks to a staff member for the care and support they received while living in the home.

Children are encouraged to participate in activities they enjoy, such as arts and crafts, horse riding, swimming and shopping. Staff recognise the importance of meaningful activities for children. One child was supported to have pets in the home, as staff understood the emotional benefits this would bring to the child.

Children are supported in spending time with their families where appropriate. Staff worked closely with one child's family member and actively involved them in their work with the child, helping to strengthen important family connections.

Education is prioritised. One child who was out of education was well supported to return to full-time learning in a mainstream school. Staff ensured that the child was fully involved in choosing their new school and provided consistent support during a phased induction, helping them settle and re-engage in education.

Staff meet children's physical and emotional health needs effectively. Children register with healthcare services, including GPs and dentists. Staff speak with children about the importance of attending routine health checks and maintaining personal hygiene.

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

Staff have a strong commitment to safeguarding, communication and multi-agency working. They attend all significant multi-agency meetings, and professionals report that staff communication is timely. This partnership working ensures that risk-related information is shared promptly, which helps and protects children.

Staff demonstrate a strong understanding of children's individual needs and vulnerabilities. They are aware of children's triggers and respond to them effectively. Children's safety plans are regularly reviewed and updated, enabling staff to respond consistently to changing risks.

Incidents are managed effectively, and physical interventions are used only when necessary to prevent harm to children and staff. When children raise concerns about being harmed, leaders and managers respond promptly to protect them. Actions include removing staff from the home, informing safeguarding agencies, seeking children's views and identifying appropriate support. This approach helps to enhance children's safety in the home.

Staff make consistent efforts to engage children in meaningful conversations to help them understand and reflect on their behaviours and associated risks. When children are reluctant to engage in discussions about their needs and risks, staff take creative approaches. They involve family members in key-work sessions, which allows them to listen to the concerns being raised and understand how staff are trying to help and protect children. This approach helps to increase children's willingness to engage over time.

When children go missing from home, staff take proactive steps to locate them and follow agreed safety plans to minimise risks during these incidents. In one case, staff identified patterns and links that helped them understand the triggers for missing-from-home episodes. The registered manager at the time worked closely with a manager from another children's home to facilitate safe and structured contact between children to prevent missing-from-home episodes.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leadership and management have changed since the last inspection, and the registered manager post is currently vacant. The director, who was the previous registered manager, is currently supporting the staff and children in the home. These interim arrangements have provided stability and management oversight. There are plans to recruit a new manager who will register with Ofsted. Recommendations from the last inspection have been fully addressed.

Staff receive regular and reflective supervision that is child focused. They report feeling well supported by leaders and managers, and there is a sense of kindness, compassion and high morale in the team. Group supervision provides opportunities for staff, managers and leaders to reflect together about the children's risks, experiences and learning from incidents or placement endings. Leaders and managers also facilitate workshops in response to emerging themes from audits. This strengthens staff practice and helps them meet the specific needs of the children in their care.

Team meetings take place regularly and are well attended. Safeguarding remains central to the agenda, and discussions are consistently child focused, with clear actions for staff

to follow. It is a constructive space where leaders and managers provide appropriate challenge to staff to help improve their practice and build their confidence.

Allegations of harm are taken seriously, and leaders and managers ensure that information is shared promptly with relevant safeguarding agencies. Ofsted is informed of safeguarding concerns as required. This supports regulatory oversight and promotes children's safety and wellbeing.

Leaders and managers provide training, and staff receive specialist training. This helps them develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to provide safe, effective care that meets children's individual needs.

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 provider must appoint a person to manage the children's home if— there is no registered manager in respect of the home; and the registered provider— is an organisation or a partnership; does not satisfy regulation 28; or is not, or does not intend to be, in day-to-day charge of the home. If the registered provider appoints a person to manage the home, the registered provider must, without delay, give HMCI notice of— the name of the person so appointed; and the date on which the appointment takes effect. (Regulation 27 (1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii) (2)(a)(b))	31 July 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: 2757606

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aden Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 211, 2 Cromar Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2QE

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Amena Begum, Social Care Inspector
Tina Woolley, Social Care Inspector

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