

2764431

Registered provider: Almond Care Children's Services Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately operated. It provides care for up to two children with learning disabilities who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, one child was living at the home. No other children have lived at the home during this inspection period.

The manager is registered with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 September 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 3 December 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
03/12/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

The child living at the home receives a standard of care that exceeds good. The child has developed warm and trusting relationships with staff and is now well settled at the home. Staff care for the child in a consistent and nurturing manner, and the child is making excellent progress as a result. There has been a particular focus on developing the child's speech and language. The use of communication aids has helped the child to begin speaking in full sentences for the first time.

Care plans for the child are excellent; they help staff to clearly understand the child's current needs in the wider context of their historical experiences. Plans are regularly updated with nuanced information that informs staff about how to care for the child most effectively. A consistent approach from staff has supported the child in making significant progress with their independence, which has increased their self-confidence. Staff have helped the child contribute to their care plans by appropriately adapting them to support their understanding.

The home is well maintained. It is decorated in a vibrant, child-centred style. There are several spaces where the child can explore crafts or play. The garden is well maintained and has lots of play equipment, which the child particularly enjoys using. Outside the home, the child enjoys exploring their interests and has multiple opportunities to join community groups and experience new activities.

The staff understand how important the child's family is to her. Staff support family time effectively and ensure that it occurs regularly. Staff understand how to communicate effectively with family members, and this has nurtured an effective working relationship, particularly with immediate family.

Staff deeply care for the child and strive to ensure that their voice is heard in the home. Meaningful conversations occur regularly, which staff approach in a playful and child-centred manner. The child is becoming increasingly confident in sharing their feelings and influencing the care offered in the home. Staff help the child learn about puberty and understand issues such as stranger danger. These areas are important for the child.

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

The child is settled and stable at the home. She has not been involved in any serious incidents, has not gone missing, has not been physically held, and has not engaged in behaviours that could place her at risk of harm. Staff are extremely committed to the child and help her understand and label her feelings. Professionals who know the child well said that she is happy and comfortable at the home.

The staff thoroughly understand the risks to the child, and the risks are documented clearly in risk assessments. These documents are comprehensive and provide pragmatic

advice for staff to follow. They assist the staff in understanding what might trigger the risk or behaviour and how they can work with the child to prevent an incident from occurring or escalating. Despite there being no serious incidents during this period, risk assessments and behaviour support plans are regularly reviewed. Staff understand the child's vulnerability, particularly when in the community, and they understand that there can be no assumptions regarding safety.

Staff are sensitively supporting the child in exploring their identity and cultural heritage. Staff recognise that while this remains an important part of who the child is, it must be approached at a pace that is comfortable for her. The manager advocates well for the child in this regard, particularly with the wider familial network. Staff have supported the child in exploring their interests, likes and dislikes. As a result, the child is developing a real sense of self.

The child receives support in taking medication to aid their sleep, and there are clear administrative and auditing processes in place to ensure that the medication is taken regularly and administered correctly. The child is now well rested before each school day. As a result, the child is now ready to learn and is making progress in their academic attainment.

The child is being supported to engage in community-based volunteering, such as litter picking. This is helping the child understand how to be a responsible citizen and encouraging their communication with wider members of the community. Staff acknowledge and celebrate the child's achievements, however big or small. They have developed an age-appropriate incentive system that the child understands and responds well to.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

A committed, engaged and tenacious manager runs the home. She is ambitious both for the child and the staff. She has nurtured a cohesive team, and staff look to her to develop their knowledge and model excellent practice. Staff are invested in the home's ethos of providing a nurturing environment in which the child can reach their full potential.

There is currently a small but consistent staff team at the home. Staff are appropriately qualified and experienced. Additional staff training has been prioritised, and staff undertake this regularly. The manager has been committed to sourcing bespoke training, and consequently staff have had a breadth of specialist learning. This ensures that the child receives care from staff who have the necessary knowledge and skills to meet their complex needs.

The manager understands the importance of thorough and insightful quality assurance systems. She has comprehensive oversight of the home and understands the impact of the care offered. Staff recognise the importance of maintaining comprehensive records and ensuring their timely completion. This enables the manager to know the areas of

strength and development. The child's progress is well understood, and staff are continually aspirational for the child.

Staff support systems are of very good quality and offered consistently. Staff value supervision sessions and team meetings as opportunities to reflect, professionally challenge, and learn. A clear appraisal system ensures that staff feel valued and encouraged to develop professionally. Staff feel well prepared for and supported in their roles. Staff speak with love and care about the child. Staff spoken to said that they feel the home is like a family.

Professionals spoken to were consistently positive about the care offered to the child. They said that staff communicate effectively with them and recognise the substantial progress the child is making. One professional said, 'I quite honestly can't think of a better care setting for the child.'

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: 2764431

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Almond Care Children's Services Ltd

Registered provider address: 4 Barling Way, Nuneaton CV10 7RH

Responsible individual: Julia Senah

Registered manager: Suzannah Reuben-Hughes

Inspector

Louise Copping, Social Care Inspector

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