

2778059

Registered provider: Bridge2Future Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private organisation operates this home. It provides care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

There is a new manager in post. They registered with Ofsted in August 2025. The manager is suitably qualified and experienced.

Inspectors were aware during this inspection that serious child protection allegations were being investigated by the appropriate authorities. While Ofsted does not have the power to investigate allegations of this kind, actions taken by the setting in response to the allegations were considered alongside other evidence available at the time of the inspection to inform the inspector's judgements.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 October 2025

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: 11 February 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/02/2025	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

There was one child living in the home at the time of the inspection. They were spending time with their family in preparation for moving back home and so did not share their views. Since the last inspection, seven children have moved into the home and seven children have moved on. One child moved on to foster care, in line with their care plan. One child moved to another children's home, more suited to their needs, and five children returned to the care of their families.

Children who have lived in the home have had a good overall experience. They make progress from their starting points. Staff have a good understanding of children's care needs and how to provide safe and good-quality care.

Children's health needs are prioritised. Staff ensure that children are quickly registered with local health services and seek specialist support when required. They ensure that children have a healthy, balanced diet and take regular exercise. They have supported children to develop improved sleep routines and to take their medication more regularly. As a result, children are healthier.

Staff support children to make progress with their education. When children are not in education, staff ensure that bespoke learning plans are in place, to ensure that children are continuing to receive education. Staff work in partnership with education professionals to provide children with opportunities to improve their academic ability and reach their full potential. As a result of staff support, three children were able to re-engage in education, after extended periods out.

Children are provided with opportunities to have fun and try new things. They have been out on activities in the local community, to the seaside and on trips to theme parks. This helps children to develop socially and build their confidence.

Staff understand the importance of children's voices being heard. Staff and managers listen to children's views. Children have opportunities to have their say in a variety of ways and they also have access to an independent advocate. This provides children with opportunities to influence the care and support that they receive. They also have the space to share and talk about their achievements and reflect on and learn from incidents. This supports children to feel valued and listened to and ensures that they are supported to build trusting relationships.

Most of the children who moved into the home were new to social care. Overall, managers' care planning processes when considering these children's needs were good. However, as children had not previously been in care, some risks and vulnerabilities emerged that were previously unknown. In some instances, managers have not fully explored the ease of access to transport in the local area, when there are known risks of children going missing from home. On occasions, this has impacted the staff's ability to

fully meet children's needs and keep them safe. This has contributed to unplanned endings for some children.

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

Overall, managers and staff know children well. Staff understand children's needs and risks, and the actions they need to take to keep children safe. There have been times when children's risk and vulnerabilities have increased, and staff have managed most of these challenges well.

The manager has effective oversight of children's care plans. This ensures that staff are provided with clear and up-to-date guidance on how to meet needs, mitigate risk and keep children safe. There are clear targets in place for children, which align with their local authority and education, health and care plan targets. Staff review these regularly to monitor children's progress.

Managers respond quickly when there are allegations, complaints or concerns about staff practice. They ensure the local authority designated officer and social workers are always informed. This allows for all concerns to be investigated and there is critical analysis and learning from incidents. This helps children to be confident to raise any concerns, as they know staff will take them seriously. It also helps them to feel safe and secure in their environment.

Staff only use physical intervention as a last resort. Managers have oversight of all incidents, and they have reflective discussions with staff and children following the use of the intervention. This ensures that, when used, physical intervention is proportionate and necessary. It also supports learning for staff and allows staff to amend practice to meet children's individual needs.

When children are missing, staff follow children's missing-from-home protocols effectively. When children return, staff warmly welcome them back, so that they understand that staff worry for their safety. When risks have increased, the manager has quickly raised concerns and collaborated with the police and external professionals to reduce risk and keep children safe. As a result, there is a multi-agency approach to reduce the risk of children being missing from home and the associated risks of exploitation.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Since the last inspection, there have been changes to the leadership and management of the home. There is a new registered manager. She has great ambitions for the home and staff and expectations for children to achieve.

The registered manager has effective systems in place to monitor the quality of care that staff provide to children. She has developed a good understanding of the home's areas for development and strengths. The manager is resolute and committed to the continued

development of the home, to ensure that children consistently receive good-quality, safe care that supports them to make progress.

The manager has robust oversight of children's records. She has supported staff to develop and write all children's records to children, in child-friendly, nurturing language. This helps to support children's understanding of their own plans.

Overall, staff feel supported by the management team. Staff say the manager is 'consistently supportive' and 'understanding'. The manager provides staff with a comprehensive induction, regular practice-related supervision and reflective team meetings, and there is a comprehensive training plan in place. These approaches help staff to develop in their roles and ensure that they have the skills to meet children's individual care needs. However, there is a lack of experience in the team and there have been occasions when staff have lacked confidence when managing children's risks. While managers have recognised this and are holding regular workshops to upskill staff and model good practice, some staff have at times felt unsupported and unsafe working in the home.

The staff and managers work closely with a wide range of professionals so that children receive well-coordinated care. This is a strength of the home. The manager challenges those who are not meeting children's needs, or when she feels decisions are not in the best interests of the children. Feedback from professionals was positive. They are complimentary about the communication from staff and the progress that children make while living in the home.

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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)) In particular, the manager must ensure that staff have the required skills and knowledge to provide safe and effective care to each child. In addition, that there are suitably experienced staff in place to meet children's needs and to provide support to inexperienced staff.	12 December 2025
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that arrangements are in place to— plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(iii))	12 December 2025

In particular, the registered person must ensure that children are prepared for moving on from the home, both practically and emotionally. Additionally, that they fully understand children's risks in relation to the home's location when considering children moving into the home.

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: 2778059

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Bridge2Future Ltd

Registered provider address: Bridge2Future, Surestore, Ninth Avenue, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3JZ

Responsible individual: Emma Smith

Registered manager: Annette Stock

Inspector

Sonia Sullivan, Social Care Inspector

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