

2779064

Registered provider: Icare Solutions Stockport Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and is registered to provide care for one child who may experience emotional and/or social difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in July 2024. There is currently no registered manager.

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

Inspection date: 3 June 2026

Date of last inspection: 4 March 2026

Judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

An assurance inspection was undertaken on 4 March 2026. This visit was undertaken in response to concerns in relation to safeguarding practices and leadership and management.

We identified the following serious and widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection:

- Ineffective leadership and management.
- Staff do not understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe and protecting them from harm.
- Staff do not recognise the risk of child exploitation.

Summary of findings

The child is not protected from harm, and leaders, managers and staff consistently fail to follow plans, manage risk or work effectively with partner agencies.

Staff care for the child using plans that outline known concerns. However, the child is subject to police bail conditions across two police forces. Leaders and managers contacted professionals to request a change so the child could attend a camping trip with staff. They were advised that this trip could be agreed, but all future trips must be discussed with community youth justice and the police. Despite this, leaders and managers arranged a further overnight stay without clarifying the arrangements with these key agencies. As a result, the child breached their bail conditions.

Leaders, managers and staff do not take effective action to reduce the known risks associated with substance misuse. The child is known to use substances, including cannabis. Despite this awareness, leaders and managers have not identified or addressed gaps in staff practice. When staff suspected substance misuse within the home, there was a delay in completing a room search. This lack of timely action meant that risks to the child were not managed appropriately, and the child was exposed to avoidable harm.

Procedures designed to minimise risks associated with missing-from-care incidents are not consistently followed. The child is known to go missing from home, and although the frequency of incidents has reduced, staff practice is not robust. The child has left the home without staff knowledge on several occasions, and staff have not followed identified triggers or implemented the increased supervision required at key times, such as bedtime.

Following supervised family time, staff dropped the child off without knowing who they were meeting or what their plans were. The child was later alleged to have been involved in an incident involving knife crime, was stopped and searched by

police, found with a quantity of money, and subsequently returned to the home. Despite this serious concern, staff again dropped the child off the following day without establishing their plans, which was not in line with the child's agreed arrangements or safety plan. These repeated failures to follow established procedures and safety measures place the child at an increased level of risk.

The child receives a weekly allowance that is managed by managers and staff. When the child was later found to have additional quantities of money, leaders and managers stated that this was part of the child's savings. However, records do not support this, and no further exploration took place to understand how the child accessed the extra money or what risks may be associated with this. As a result, opportunities to ensure the child is appropriately supported were missed.

Opportunities to help the child maintain a healthy lifestyle are being missed. The child has access to vapes, and staff are aware that vaping is occurring within the home. However, leaders, managers and staff report that they do not understand how the child is obtaining these items. Further work has not been carried out to understand this risk or to take steps to minimise it. As a result, the child is not being fully supported to stay healthy.

Leaders and managers are regularly present in the home, and the interim manager attends daily. Despite this level of presence, shortfalls in staff practice have not been identified or addressed. As a result, practice remains reactive and continues to expose the child to significant, unmanaged risks. There is limited professional curiosity to understand these risks or to take steps to reduce them, which affects the child's ability to experience positive outcomes in a safe and supportive environment. Overall, management oversight is weak and ineffective.

Leaders and managers do not share accurate information with professionals, including the placing authority social worker. Reports provided in multi-agency meetings present overly positive progress that does not reflect the child's lived experience or the quality of care. Professionals have raised concerns about a lack of transparency.

Leaders and managers informed the placing authority social worker that waking night staffing ended on a specific date. This was inaccurate, as the intervention had been withdrawn several days earlier. This lack of openness undermines trust and does not align with the home's statement of purpose, which states that waking night staff are in place.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/03/2026	Full	Inadequate
24/06/2025	Full	Inadequate
30/10/2024	Full	Good

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 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; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; 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)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff have the knowledge and skills to safeguard children effectively and show professional curiosity during incidents, complete accurate records, verify children's accounts and make appropriate enquiries when there are indicators of potential risk.	5 July 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— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; 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; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that there is clear oversight of incidents and children's records to review the quality of care and address and identify shortfalls. Leaders and managers must ensure that staff receive training that is specific to children's needs and evaluate the effectiveness of this on staff practice.	5 July 2026
*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.	5 July 2026

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that arrangements are in place to— ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and 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)(i)(ii)(iii)) The registered person must ensure that assessments of children’s suitability to live at the home are carefully considered alongside the staff’s skills, experience and ability to meet their needs.	
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to achieve the child’s education and training targets, as recorded in the child’s relevant plans; support each child’s learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; maintain regular contact with each child’s education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and	5 July 2026

the placing authority to support the child's education and training and to maximise the child's achievement; raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; and help each child who is above compulsory school age to participate in further education, training or employment and to prepare for future care, education or employment. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix))	
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; and use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(vii)) Specifically, this relates to leaders and managers ensuring that attention is given to maintenance and redecoration in the home so that the home is maintained to an appropriate standard.	5 July 2026
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; ensure that the records are kept up to date; and	5 July 2026

retain the records for at least 15 years from the date of the last entry. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)) In particular, the registered person must maintain an accurate copy of the staff duty rota, detailing all relevant information of persons working in the home.	
The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if— the monitoring or surveillance is for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child concerned, or other children; the child's placing authority consents in writing to the monitoring or surveillance; so far as reasonably practicable in the light of the child's age and understanding, the child is informed in advance of the intention to do the monitoring or surveillance; and the monitoring or surveillance is no more intrusive than necessary, having regard to the child's need for privacy. This regulation is subject to any monitoring or surveillance requirements imposed by a court. (Regulation 24 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d) (2))	5 July 2026
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. The registered person must provide a copy of the statement of purpose to HMCI and make a copy of it available upon request to— a child's placing authority; and The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and Subject to paragraph (6), the registered person must ensure that the home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its statement of purpose. (Regulation 16 (1) (2)(d)(3)(a)(5)(6))	5 July 2026

*These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2779064

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Icare Solutions Stockport Limited

Registered provider address: 101 Wellington Road North, Stockport SK4 2LP

Responsible individual: Bahisa Khojani

Registered manager: Post Vacant

Inspectors

Nicola Forrester, Social Care Inspector
Stacey Ilaboya, Social Care Inspector

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