

2784147

Registered provider: Oasis Midlands Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties. The home was registered with Ofsted in December 2024.

There is a permanent manager in post who became registered in October 2024.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 July 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: not previously inspected

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the home. Since registration, three children have moved in and one child has moved out. During the inspection, the inspector spoke to both children living in the home.

Children have moved into the home quickly, despite children's care plans allowing sufficient time to support a more gradual and child-focused approach. As a result, opportunities for children to prepare for their move and become familiar with their new environment have been limited. This has impacted on how well children have settled into the home.

Staff care about children and make efforts to build positive relationships with them. For example, children engage in boxing practice with staff, who are enthusiastic and encouraging. However, this positive experience has not been consistent for all children. One child struggled to engage with staff and rarely participated in activities. They spent significant periods of time either outside of the home or in their bedroom, which hindered their ability to develop a sense of belonging and form meaningful relationships with staff. Staff report similar patterns of behaviour for another child currently living in the home, who spent most of the inspection period in their bedroom.

Children have made mixed progress in education. One child has excellent school attendance, and staff consistently support this by taking them to and from their education setting. In contrast, another child has largely withdrawn from education and spends extended periods in their bedroom. When the child stopped attending school, staff offered education sessions within the home. Although the child initially engaged with these sessions, participation has since declined, and he no longer takes part.

Staff promote children's health and seek specialist support when needed. For example, when children struggle with their personal hygiene, staff consult health professionals to explore strategies to meet children's individual needs.

The home is comfortable and well maintained, offering a variety of spaces for children to relax and play. A good-sized, enclosed garden is equipped with football goals, a swing ball set and bikes, providing opportunities for outdoor activities. Children are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms; however, this has largely not occurred.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Physical restraint is used only when necessary and proportionate. However, the quality of incident recording is inconsistent. In some cases, the date of the child's debriefs following a restraint is not documented. In another instance, the debrief was conducted by the same staff member who carried out the restraint. This does not provide sufficient assurance that children are offered appropriate and impartial opportunities to reflect on the incident and have their feelings acknowledged and supported.

Children do not consistently receive effective help and support from staff to manage their behaviours and emotions safely. On occasions when staff felt unable to manage behaviour, the police have been called. This practice has resulted in children being unnecessarily criminalised.

When children go missing from home, staff respond promptly, taking coordinated action and notifying the relevant safeguarding agencies. Following missing-from-home incidents, children are offered the opportunity to engage in return home interviews. This helps build an understanding of the child's experiences and identify potential risks and needs.

When children make complaints, the manager undertakes thorough investigations. Children are kept informed throughout the process and receive personalised letters outlining the outcomes. This demonstrates a respectful and child-centred approach.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The home is led by a manager who holds appropriate qualifications and experience. She demonstrates a strong commitment to both the home and to the children in her care.

Despite the manager's commitment, oversight has not always been effective. Serious incidents have not consistently been identified or reported to the regulator in a timely manner. Not informing the appropriate agencies significantly hinders their ability to conduct an informed risk assessment of the setting.

The manager does not consistently challenge ineffective responses from external services. For example, during one incident, the manager felt that action taken by the police was unnecessary and caused distress to the child. However, the manager did not challenge their response.

Children do not always receive care that aligns with the ethos and objectives outlined in the home's statement of purpose. Staff's responses to discrimination are punitive. This approach reflects a lack of curiosity about the underlying causes of behaviour

and does not support the development of positive, trusting relationships with children.

Careful recruitment practice has ensured a safe and suitable workforce.

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— 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a))	30 September 2025
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c)) This specifically relates to the registered person's responsibility to challenge police actions when they are disproportionate and result in children experiencing distress or being unnecessarily criminalised.	30 September 2025
The registered person must ensure that— within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(c))	30 September 2025

This specifically relates to incidents where the use of physical intervention is used.	
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child — is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))	30 September 2025

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: 2784147

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Oasis Midlands Limited

Responsible individual: Andrew Pearsall

Registered manager: Lenneah Thomas

Inspector

Becky Rutter, Social Care Inspector

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