

2786401

Registered provider: Action for Children

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a national charity and offers a short-breaks service for disabled children. It provides care for up to 4 children at any one time.

At the time of this inspection, 2 children were staying at the home, and 18 children were accessing the service.

A new manager has applied to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 17 March 2026

Date of last inspection: 5 November 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

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

The inspector has 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

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Although the home is making progress towards meeting the requirements raised at the full inspection, the improvements have not been fully embedded into staff practice; therefore, the requirements have been restated.

The children are encouraged to establish positive peer relationships. They are carefully matched so that their individual needs can be met by staff without compromising the quality of care or support.

Staff have developed a varied programme of activities for the children to enjoy, supported by a dedicated art and craft room and a well-equipped sensory room. Children are encouraged and supported to access these activities in accordance with their interests and abilities. Their artwork and personal achievements are prominently displayed throughout the home, celebrating their successes and promoting a sense of pride and belonging.

External professionals carry out comprehensive risk assessments for children who require the use of specialised beds or equipment when travelling by car. These assessments include clearly defined outcomes and action plans; they provide staff with the necessary guidance to implement appropriate arrangements and support strategies ready for each child's arrival. This ensures that the home is fully prepared to meet the child's individual needs from the outset.

The children's bedrooms have recently been refurbished, introducing calming colour schemes and sensory lighting to enhance the environment. These improvements help create a welcoming, comfortable and child-centred space that supports children's emotional regulation and overall wellbeing.

Staff continue to receive ongoing training in recognising and managing safeguarding concerns, as well as report writing and the use of restrictive practices. These areas are regularly reinforced through team meetings and individual supervision sessions. However, some shortfalls remain. Risk assessments and behaviour support plans are not consistently updated or recorded to the standards required to meet the children's individual needs. Managers are aware of these issues and are working towards addressing the shortfalls.

Staff support children in developing independence in line with their individual abilities. However, they do not consistently demonstrate the level of professional curiosity needed to ensure that support plans are sufficiently responsive to children's emerging needs. Staff are not always working proactively with external specialists and parents to explore or review children's sensory needs. As a result, opportunities to identify creative, evidence-based strategies that could help children better



manage specific sensory behaviours are missed. This limits children's autonomy and reduces their opportunities to develop self-regulation skills that would enhance their overall quality of life.

Managers are determined to improve the quality of the service. They have implemented a structured action plan aimed at developing staff's skills and ensuring that practice is consistent and responsive to the needs of all the children.

Staff receive regular supervision; however, current supervision records lack reflective detail and do not set out clear, measurable actions. This limits opportunities to demonstrate staff accountability, monitor progress and support continuous professional development.



Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/11/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
02/09/2024	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 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— 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; that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(ii)(iii)(c)) This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.	20 July 2026
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	20 July 2026

necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; 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 are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)) This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.	
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	20 July 2026

child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; 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)(e)(f)(g)(ii)(h)) This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.	
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— develop positive relationships with them; engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care;	20 July 2026

help each child to understand how the child's privacy will be respected and the circumstances when it may have to be limited;

help each child to prepare for any review of the child's relevant plans and to make the child's views, wishes and feelings known for the purposes of that review; and

make each child aware of and, if necessary, remind them of each of the matters in sub-paragraph (d)(i) to (iii);

ensure that each child—

is enabled to provide feedback to, and raise issues with, a relevant person about the support and services that the child receives;

is given appropriate advocacy support;

keep the children's guide and the home's complaints procedure under review and seek children's comments before revising either document;

ensure that an explanation is given to each child as soon as reasonably practicable after the child's arrival about—

the children's guide;

how to make a complaint or representations in relation to the home or the care the child receives and how any such complaint or representations will be dealt with; and

what advocacy support or services are available to the child, how the child may access that support or those services and any entitlement the child may have to independent advocacy provision; and

ensure that the views of each relevant person are taken into account, so far as reasonably practicable, before making a decision about the care or welfare of a child.

(Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c)

(2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(i)(iii)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(iii)(e))

This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.

The registered person must ensure that—

20 July 2026

any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises—

is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home;

is necessary and proportionate;

is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and

allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))

This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.



Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2786401

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Responsible individual: Claire Cahill

Registered manager: Charlotte Jorgensen

Inspector

Shaheda Dhandia, Social Care Inspector



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