

2794301

Registered provider: Vines Support Services Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned. It is registered to provide care for up to two children with emotional and social difficulties.

There were no children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The registered manager position has been vacant since 28 July 2025.

Inspection date: 25 February 2026

Date of last inspection: 22 July 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector 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

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

Some of the requirements and recommendations from the previous inspection have been met. Others remain, as they are untested with no child living at the home since September 2025.

A manager has been appointed and is leading the home. However, they are not currently registered. There has not been a registered manager at the home since July 2025.

The responsible individual, manager and director are reflective regarding the child's time living at the home. This includes the placement ending. They have made changes to their referral process. This is to ensure that they are confident in being able to meet the needs of any children coming to live at the home.

A good range of training and workshops has been provided to upskill staff. This covers important topics such as trauma informed practice and report writing. Also, reflection on the care of the one child who lived at the home.

The responsible individual has reflected on the risk assessment that had been used. This was specific to the child and based on a team around the child approach. This included meetings with other professionals to review the risks. A clearer template has been devised to guide staff on responding to risks to children.

Quality assurance and monitoring systems are now in place. These will be used by the manager and responsible individual. The manager stressed that he would be spending time talking with children to gain their views of the care provided. Also, observing staff practice for discussions in staff supervisions.

New templates have been created, using child-friendly language. These include, discussions with children following incidents, one-to-one sessions with children and a child's feelings check in sheet. These are good tools for gaining a child's views and wishes. However, these have not been able to be used as yet, given no children live in the home.

Staff spent effective one-to-one time with the child. These keywork sessions included helping the child to manage their emotions and behaviour. A behaviour agreement was introduced with the child's input. However, the time after the last inspection was difficult and challenging for the child and staff.

Staff rarely used physical intervention to manage the child's unwanted behaviours. When required, they were responded to well and recorded in detail. Management oversight was added including analysis and any required actions.

Children's medication storage has now been moved to a safer place. However, medication records need to be clearer, especially around controlled medication. The new manager is aware of this and is implementing a new system.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/07/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/04/2025	Full	Inadequate

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; 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; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; and feedback on the experiences of children; 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)(f)(g)(i)(h))	30 April 2026
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives.	30 April 2026

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— 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. (Regulation 7 (1)(c) (2)(a)(iii))	
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(v))	30 April 2026
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicines kept in the home are stored in a secure place so as to prevent any child from having unsupervised access to them; medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; and	31 March 2026

a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. Paragraph (2) does not apply to medicine which— is stored by the child for whom it is provided in such a way that other persons are prevented from using it; and may be safely self-administered by that child. (Regulation 23 (1)(2)(a)(b)(c) and (3)(a)(b)) In particular, this refers to ensuring that medication is stored safely and accurately recorded, especially with regards to controlled medication.	
The registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children's home if— there is no registered manager in respect of the home; and the registered provider— is an organisation or a partnership; does not satisfy regulation 28; or is not, or does not intend to be, in day-to-day charge of the home. If the registered provider appoints a person to manage the home, the registered provider must, without delay, give HMCI notice of— the name of the person so appointed; and the date on which the appointment takes effect. (Regulation 27 (1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii) and (2)(a)(b)) In particular, this refers to there not being a registered manager at the home since July 2025.	30 April 2026

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2794301

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Vines Support Services Limited

Registered provider address: C/O Quantum Uk Business Solutions Limited,
Breakspear Park, Regus, Breakspear Way, Hemel Hempstead HP2 4TZ

Responsible individual: Prosper Tawanda

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Shaun Caplis, Social Care Inspector

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