

2794973

Registered provider: Orchard Adolescent Care Group

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

One child was living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2025.

Inspection dates: 12 and 13 May 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	inadequate
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	inadequate
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	inadequate
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There are serious and widespread failures that mean children are not protected and their welfare is not promoted.

Date of last inspection: 17 June 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/06/2025	Full	Good
11/02/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Summary of findings

Significant shortfalls in safeguarding practice and the leadership and management of the home have been identified. This has impacted on the safety and progress of the child living at the home. Despite the significant safeguarding concerns identified, the child has developed positive relationships with the staff team, and the staff speak about the child with warmth.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: inadequate

Shortfalls in help and protection, alongside weaknesses in leadership and management, mean that the child has not been consistently safeguarded. Their experiences and progress have been adversely affected.

The child is not consistently supported to engage in activities outside of the home or to participate in hobbies and interests. When not in education, there is a lack of structure, boundaries and routine and the child spends extended periods gaming. This does not support the child's social or emotional wellbeing.

The child's emotional health needs are not being met. Although the provider has commissioned a clinical service to support the child, poor information-sharing by leaders and managers has limited the effectiveness of this support. This has significantly hindered the child's progress and has placed both the child and the therapist at increased risk.

The child's education is not consistently supported due to poor communication between staff and the education provider. Incidents are not always shared with relevant professionals in a timely manner, which means that appropriate strategies to support the child are not always implemented. Despite these shortfalls, the child attends school regularly. Staff attend parents' evenings and take steps to celebrate the child's achievements.

Staff do not have access to the most up-to-date information about the child. Key statutory documentation is missing, which limits the staff team's ability to meet the child's individual needs and ensure their safety.

Leaders and managers have failed to ensure that the home environment is maintained to a suitable standard. Walls, furnishings and carpets are visibly dirty, the front door is without a letter box and the gardens are overgrown and contain rubbish. This does not provide the child with a safe, comfortable or nurturing environment.

The child is supported to see people who are important to them. The team regularly facilitates family time with the child's parents.

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

The child is not receiving good-quality care and is not adequately protected from harm. Staff's failure to raise concerns, alongside poor decision-making by leaders and managers, has increased the risk of harm to the child.

Leaders, managers and staff do not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and have failed to take prompt action when concerns arise. Staff have not followed whistleblowing procedures when the child has disclosed incidents of harm. Additionally, when leaders and managers have been made aware of safeguarding concerns, they have not taken appropriate or timely action to ensure the child's safety.

The child's risk plans do not detail all known risks and vulnerabilities. Consequently, staff, including agency staff, do not have the information needed to keep the child safe and meet their individual care needs.

Safeguards are not in place to ensure that the child is protected when using the internet. Not all staff were aware that the child had recently attempted to download content that was not age-appropriate and access a chat site. Although staff say that they complete device checks, there is no recorded evidence to demonstrate that these are carried out consistently.

Direct work with the child is inconsistent. Staff have not engaged the child in discussions to support their understanding of important topics, such as appropriate language, personal care and staying safe online. This represents a missed opportunity to develop the child's awareness in areas that are directly relevant to their needs.

Staff rotas are not consistently maintained and do not always clearly record which staff are on shift or the hours worked. This results in an incomplete record of who has cared for the child and does not demonstrate that agreed safeguarding plans are consistently followed.

Safer recruitment practices are poor. Leaders and managers have not ensured that all adults working with children are safe to do so.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: inadequate

The registered manager is currently absent from the home. The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2025. An interim manager has been employed to support the home in the registered manager's absence. However, they have not had the opportunity to implement essential changes to make improvements.

The registered manager and responsible individual have failed to effectively monitor the home. They do not have sufficient oversight of the quality of care or staff practice. There have been significant delays in reviewing incidents, and some records have been

retrospectively rewritten. As a result, the accuracy, frequency and extent of incidents cannot be reliably determined.

Leaders and managers have not worked collaboratively. There has been a significant delay in sharing information with the child's parents, placing authority and clinical team. Leaders and managers have not ensured that relevant information has been shared with Ofsted or that independent audits have been completed within regulatory timescales. This means that there has been a delay in independent oversight of matters that relate to the child's progress, safety and welfare.

Staff are not adequately supported to improve their practice or the care they provide to the child. Appraisals, regular supervision and team meetings are not taking place. As a result, staff do not have opportunities for professional development or to reflect on their practice and incidents that have occurred.

Consequences given in response to the child's behaviour are not recorded in line with regulatory requirements. Records lack evidence of management oversight and there has been no evaluation of their effectiveness.

The home's statement of purpose is inaccurate and misleading. It does not include the current registered manager's details, contains incorrect information about the staff team and provides factually inaccurate information regarding staff experience and clinical support.

Senior leaders and managers were aware of some of the concerns identified prior to the inspection. However, limited action had been taken to address these issues. While there are plans in place to increase support in the home, these have not resulted in meaningful improvements.

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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; 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; 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; that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12(1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(d)) Specifically, the registered provider must ensure that all known risks for the child are appropriately assessed, with clear strategies in place for staff to manage and reduce the risks effectively.	14 June 2026

Specifically, the registered provider must ensure that all staff are aware of the whistleblowing procedure, and that all relevant agencies are informed of incidents, allegations and concerns as appropriate so that they have the necessary information to assess risk, safeguard the child and make informed decisions about their welfare in a timely way.	
*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— 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)(h)) The registered provider must ensure that there are effective monitoring and review systems in place to identify address shortfalls in staff practice, so that the child is safe and the quality of their care is continually improved.	14 June 2026
*The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children's home; or	14 June 2026

if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual is of integrity and good character; the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform; the individual is mentally and physically fit for the purposes of the work that the individual is to perform; and full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a)(b) (3)(a)(b)(c)(d)) Specifically, the registered provider must ensure that all staff recruitment files confirm compliance with safer recruitment practices and regulation 32, and any identified shortfalls are addressed promptly to ensure that only suitable and safe adults are working with the child.	
A responsible individual must— satisfy the requirements in paragraph (5)(a) to (c); and have the capacity, experience and skills to supervise the management of the home, or the homes, in respect of which the responsible individual is nominated. (Regulation 26 (7)(a)(b))	4 July 2026
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; 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;	4 July 2026

ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a) (2)(vii)(c)(i)) The registered provider must ensure that the home is maintained to a good standard. Specifically, they must ensure that rubbish is removed, damaged items are replaced and furnishings are of a good quality and clean.	
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— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (1) (3)(a)(b))	4 July 2026
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)(c)) The registered provider must ensure that all staff receive yearly appraisals and effective, regular supervision.	4 July 2026
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))	4 July 2026

The registered provider must ensure that all up-to-date statutory documents are received for the child.	
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and 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 (a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) Specifically, the registered provider must ensure that any consequences implemented to keep the child safe or in response to their behaviour are clearly evaluated for effectiveness.	4 July 2026
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—	4 July 2026

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; there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(b)(c)(e)) Specifically, the registered provider must ensure that significant incidents are shared with Ofsted.	
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— to inspect the premises of the home and such of the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires. The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether— children are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being. the registered provider and, if applicable, the registered manager; and the responsible individual (if one is nominated). (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(b) (4)(a)(b)(d)(e)) Specifically, the registered provider must ensure that the independent person scrutinises the quality of care and records a clear and factual account of their findings and that reports are consistently shared with Ofsted.	4 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—	4 July 2026

maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; and

ensure that the records are kept up to date.
(Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b))

Specifically, the registered person must ensure that rotas include the full names of all staff who work in the home and the actual hours they have worked.

* These requirements are subject to a compliance notice.

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: 2794973

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Orchard Adolescent Care Group

Registered provider address: Unit 16 Holroyd Business Centre, Carr Bottom Road,
Bradford BD5 9BP

Responsible individual: Humma Ahmed

Registered manager: Gary Skidmore

Inspector

Kelly McCurdy, Social Care Inspector

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