

2796485

Registered provider: Suffolk County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority home provides care for up to 6 children with social and emotional difficulties. Six children were living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager and the home registered with Ofsted on 18 June 2024.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 February 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 3 December 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/12/2024	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out of the home, and 2 children have moved in. One child moved into the home a week before this inspection. Six children were seen during the inspection. No children wished to share their views with the inspector.

Moves into and out of the home are planned effectively and managed with care. Staff communicate well with children and professionals involved, ensuring that moves happen at a pace that reflects the child's preferences and needs. Assessments of the ability of the home to meet the child's needs are completed to a good standard, and decisions take into account the best interests of the children already living in the home. This helps to maintain stability for children and supports positive experiences during periods of change.

The home provides a warm, welcoming and child-friendly environment. Children's bedrooms are personalised, and the home is thoughtfully decorated with attractive wall art that includes the children's handprints on a hand painted family tree. Staff take pride in the house, maintaining and decorating the home. This creates a nurturing, family-like atmosphere that supports children's sense of belonging and emotional wellbeing.

Children benefit from strong, trusting relationships with staff. These relationships help them feel safe, confident and able to express their feelings. Staff understand the children well and encourage safe, age-appropriate risk taking that builds resilience and supports healthy development. One professional said that their child, 'Has settled well. They [the child] regard it as their home and see staff as their family.'

Staff give lots of thought to creating opportunities for children based on their hobbies and interests. Children enjoy a wide range of activities, including trips to London, a yearly camping trip and New Year's Eve celebrations. Their achievements are recognised well, with initiatives like the 'Smile of the Day' books capturing moments in a child-friendly way. Staff share encouraging comments with children, using positive phrases, such as 'so proud of you' and 'well done'. This helps to build important connections and enjoyment of common interests together.

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

Staff know the children well and have a good understanding of each child's individual risks and vulnerabilities. These risks are managed effectively through clear and up-to-date individualised support plans and strong oversight. Recording is of a good standard, detailed, child-friendly and captures the child's voice well.

There have been no missing-from-home episodes since the previous inspection, and strong communication with children has contributed to this reduction.

Behaviour is managed fairly and consistently through natural and restorative approaches. Any consequences are clearly linked to actions and positive choices are recognised. This balanced and nurturing practice helps children learn from their behaviour, make safer decisions and experience positive routines within a supportive home environment.

Staff work collaboratively and respectfully, modelling positive communication and creating a consistent approach that helps children feel safe. Multi-agency working is a clear strength, with staff confident in seeking advice from other professionals to support children's safety and wellbeing. Professionals are highly complimentary of the staff. One said the staff are 'Great advocates for the children and they get things sorted for them.'

The front porch exit door presents a fire safety risk. It is incorrectly locked, lacks a break-glass mechanism and cannot be opened without a key. This means the escape route is not safe or compliant for use in an emergency. The manager has requested that this work be undertaken and plans for the necessary corrective actions to be completed.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is managed by a suitably qualified, experienced and permanent registered manager. The manager has a clear understanding of each child's needs and is committed to providing a stable, nurturing and family-style environment.

Managers are highly visible in the home and maintain effective oversight through daily contact with staff, regular audits and the review of important records. This ensures that practice remains consistent and child centred.

Leaders and managers work effectively with external professionals. They take a thoughtful approach to partnership working, ensuring communication is purposeful and keeps agencies well informed. They are mindful of children's needs and avoid overwhelming them with unnecessary visits, using calls and emails to maintain consistent contact. Professionals report that communication is strong and that the manager is a reliable advocate, who represents children's views well.

The home has a warm, relational culture that reflects the values set by the manager. Her commitment to the children is evident, and this contributes to a stable and supportive staff team. Staff retention is strong, with many team members having worked with the manager for several years. This means children are cared for by consistent, familiar adults, who know them well and promote their progress.

Staff benefit from regular team meetings, reflective practice sessions and purposeful supervision. They speak highly of the management team, describing them as approachable, supportive and invested in staff wellbeing. Staff say they feel valued and able to give their best because leaders prioritise their welfare. Feedback from staff is consistently positive, reflecting strong morale and a motivated team.

The homes Statement of Purpose has not been updated to reflect the staffing structure and the experience and qualifications of staff.

The responsible individual left in September 2025. A new responsible individual was appointed. However, formal notification of the change was not submitted. An appropriate notification was submitted during the inspection. The delay in notification limited Ofsted's oversight of the leadership and management arrangements during this period.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must give notice in writing to HMCI, as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so, if any of the following events take place or are expected by the registered person to take place— a person other than the registered person carries on or manages the children's home; if the registered provider is an organisation— any change in the identity of the responsible individual. (Regulation 49 (a) (e)(iii))	12 February 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the children's home complies with relevant health and safety legislations. They should ensure systems for monitoring fire protection measures are consistently effective. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards' page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that the staffing structure and the experience and qualifications of staff are included in the statement of purpose. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)

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: 2796485

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BX

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Michelle Ashman

Inspector

Sallie Bloomfield, Social Care Inspector

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