

2800482

Registered provider: The Rubix Care Group Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home registered with Ofsted in October 2024 and is owned and managed by a private company. It provides care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2024.

Inspection dates: 29 and 30 April 2025

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	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

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: good

The child living in the home has been supported to make consistent progress by a caring and nurturing staff team. Before moving in, the child was visited by staff on several occasions and was positively welcomed into the home.

The child has developed trusted relationships with staff who understand their needs well. The child says they enjoy living in the home and like all the staff. Staff offer age-appropriate guidance and help the child learn practical skills, such as cooking and budgeting.

The child is encouraged to achieve good physical health and emotional well-being, and staff ensure that their health needs are met. Staff encourage the child to attend their regular health appointments. The child is a keen runner, and staff encourage them to be active and make healthy choices.

Staff encourage the child to participate in activities and develop hobbies based on their interests. The child has a large Lego collection, and staff assist the child in constructing it while also helping them think of creative ways to expand their collection.

When barriers to attending education are identified, staff work effectively with external agencies to find a solution that works best for the child and appropriately challenge any delays. As a result, the child is now attending a suitable education provision and has plans in place for further education.

The home layout has been modified to offer the child time alone if needed, and it is generally well decorated. However, some areas require further decoration to maintain the overall warm feeling of the home.

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

There has been a significant reduction in incidents in the home, and the child's needs are well known and understood by staff. The child is encouraged to contribute to their plans and express how they wish to be supported by staff.

Risk assessments are detailed and regularly updated to reflect any new or emerging risks. Assessments provide strategies for staff to use to help them manage and reduce risks. Staff know how to respond to risks and behaviours in line with the child's plans.

Staff work closely with external agencies to ensure consistency and continuity of care for the child. The child's independent reviewing officer said, 'Everything has been really positive so far, and [name of child] has settled in well.'

Incidents resulting in physical intervention have decreased, and the child is only held by staff as a last resort. However, the registered manager has not always communicated with the child or staff in a timely manner following a restraint.

Since moving to the home, the child has been supported in making one complaint, and the matter was appropriately investigated and addressed. However, on two occasions, staff did not fully explore a concern raised by the child, and this was a missed opportunity to develop staff practice.

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

The registered manager is not currently in the home due to illness. However, a suitably qualified and experienced manager is overseeing the home and providing support to the child and staff.

Staff are provided with a wide range of training to meet the child's needs. The manager is proactive in sourcing relevant training and encourages staff to regularly access this to develop their knowledge and understanding of the child's needs and the risks they face.

Team meetings are used as an opportunity to share information, reflect on staff practice and identify what works well for the child. Staff say that they have many opportunities during regular team meetings to develop their learning.

The interim manager is a visible presence in the home and has introduced new systems to review and monitor practice. However, the registered manager has not consistently used reviewing and monitoring systems to identify areas for development and to improve practice in the home. Staff have not consistently been supported to reflect on their practice, and management oversight of incidents has often been poor or ineffective.

Staff have not always received consistent supervision in line with the home's statement of purpose. These shortfalls in management oversight were not identified by senior leaders.

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— 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; 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)(b) (2)(a)(g)(ii)(h)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that: staff consistently provide care that meets the home's ethos as outlined in the statement of purpose; any learning opportunities resulting from incidents are identified and shared with the staff team; the monitoring and review systems are used to improve the quality of care and ensure that it is delivered consistently across the staff team.	23 June 2025
The registered person must ensure that—	23 June 2025

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 (3)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that: all staff involved in a restraint are spoken to and have confirmed that the record is accurate; the child is spoken to within five days and that their views are clearly recorded and used to develop practice.	
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) Specifically, ensure that all staff receive regular practice-related supervision within the timescales outlined in the home's statement of purpose.	23 June 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff encourage and support the child to express any concerns about their care or other matters as soon as they arise. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.13)
- The registered person should ensure that the home decor reflects that of a homely, domestic environment and is finished and maintained to a high standard. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: 2800482

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Rubix Care Group Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 1 Cottam Lane Business Centre, Cottam Lane,
Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston PR2 1JR

Responsible individual: Katie Stephens

Registered manager: Francine Siepen

Inspector

Justina Henry, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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