

2800489

Registered provider: Bristol City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a local authority and is registered to provide care for up to 3 children. There are currently 2 children living in the home.

The manager has been applied to register with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 January 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 March 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/03/2025	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The staff have created a nurturing home for children, characterised by warmth and love. The environment is homely; there are photos of the children and personal items around the home that reflect a sense of belonging. Both children rated the home 10/10 and said they were happy living there.

Since the last inspection, two children have moved on from the home. The practical and emotional support from staff ensures that when children move on from the home their endings are positive. The staff are committed to continuing support for children once they move on, and this is frequently provided.

Two children have moved into the home and were present during the visit. The children were welcomed sensitively by staff, who met with them to help prepare them for the move and relieve any anxieties. Before children move in, the children living at the home are consulted about their feelings. This helps to address any worries and ensure that stability for each child is a priority.

Staff are passionate about children's education and support both children to attend school. They work collaboratively with education professionals. The staff are currently exploring post-16 planning for one child, who has excellent attendance at school. For another child, who experiences barriers to education, the staff have prioritised their emotional wellbeing while advocating for a timetable that the child feels able to manage. This has resulted in improved progress in their attendance and engagement.

Children experience a range of fun activities in line with their individual hobbies and interests. Staff have nurtured their love of music and art, and this supports positive self-expression, and examples of children's artwork is on display in the home. One child has been on holiday to a seaside resort, and another child was taken to a theme park. Photos of children's experiences are captured in colourful memory books.

Staff have meaningful discussions with children about things that are important to them. This includes emotions and feelings around family and education as well as targeted areas of support. Staff support one child with the use of alternative communication strategies that support their understanding, although not all staff are trained in this.

Staff support children to spend quality time with people who are important to them. Staff liaise with parents and carers to promote meaningful and safe contact. They understand the importance of these relationships for children and support them with their feelings around this. One professional said, 'They have gone above and beyond to support my child to see their family.'

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

Children feel safe and happy living at the home and say that staff help them.

The home has enjoyed a settled period. When incidents have occurred, staff have encouraged the use of effective strategies to support children to manage their emotions and feelings. Staff know children well and help them to live alongside each other and manage their own conflicts and difficult feelings. This restorative approach supports children to maintain positive relationships with each other.

Staff understand the risks for children. Plans in place effectively address known vulnerabilities and set out clear guidance for staff. These are regularly updated and show that risk is reducing for both children. However, one child requires support with their health needs. This is understood by the manager and staff team, but the child's records do not clearly capture the expectations on staff to provide this support.

One child had several periods of being missing from care prior to moving to the home. The risk has significantly reduced. This reflects the support from staff to provide the child with feelings of safety and belonging. The collaborative working with external agencies has ensured a joined-up approach that provides a stronger understanding of potential risk.

The manager carries out safer recruitment for permanent staff. On one occasion, the manager had not obtained information relating to gaps in employment for a staff member before they started working in the home.

When safeguarding concerns arise, immediate action is taken to safeguard children. Information is clearly recorded and shared with relevant professionals and external agencies. Staff support children sensitively throughout.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The recent changes to the management of the home have been sensitively supported and managed to minimise impact on the staff and children. The new manager of the home is passionate and highly committed to the children and staff. He knows the children well, understands their individual needs and has high aspirations for their future.

Staff say they enjoy working at the home and describe the manager as approachable and caring. The manager provides staff with supervision that is supportive and reflective. The staff also benefit from regular team meetings that are child focused and informative. The manager shows patience and commitment to supporting staff to overcome any barriers in their role and helping staff to understand their roles and responsibilities in caring for the children.

The manager ensures that training opportunities are available to staff. He has arranged targeted training for staff around the needs of the children. However, there are gaps in completion of training that supports the emotional wellbeing and communication needs

of one child. In addition, the home's workforce plan does not reflect the current skills of the team and their future training and developmental needs.

The manager has good oversight of the home. He understands the home's strengths and areas of development and has established systems to ensure effective and improved oversight. He places significance on the professional development of staff and uses reflection and learning to drive practice improvements.

Positive and professional relationships have been fostered by the manager. Professionals are complimentary about the support for children, with one saying, 'The support my child receives and the positive relationships with staff have been instrumental in them making progress.' Another said, 'I feel lucky and blessed to have found the home. They are brilliant.'

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 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; if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— 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) (3)(d)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that full and satisfactory explanations for any gaps in employment are consistently obtained and recorded as part of the recruitment.	31 January 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should support staff to gain the skills and experience that enable them to support each child with their emotional wellbeing needs. This should include training in the use of social communication tools to support the child's understanding. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.5).
- The registered person should ensure, where necessary, that a child's relevant plan includes a strategy for a particular type of care and support to meet a child's health needs. The care staff will need to understand the purpose of any such care and how it is to be executed, with the plan detailing the specifics and the expectations of staff. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.15).
- The registered person should support staff to gain the skills and experience that enable them to support each child with their emotional wellbeing needs. This should include training in the use of social communication tools to support the child's

understanding. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.5).

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: 2800489

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Bristol City Council

Registered provider address: Bristol City Council, Director of Legal Services, City Hall, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Carly Parry, Social Care Inspector

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