

2801032

Registered provider: Polar Childcare Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private organisation. The home provides care for up to 3 children who experience social and emotional difficulties, mental disorders, or who are drug and alcohol dependent.

The home was registered with Ofsted in August 2024. The registered manager post has been vacant since September 2025.

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

Inspection date: 19 January 2026

This monitoring visit

The children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 28 and 29 October 2025. Due to the serious and widespread safeguarding failures and poor leadership and management of the home, Ofsted issued a notice suspending the registration of the home.

This visit was carried out to monitor the provider's compliance with the suspension notice and any action taken to address the shortfalls outlined in this notice.

The provider has complied with the suspension notice, and no children have moved into the home.

The provider has started to take action to address the shortfalls outlined in the suspension notice.

Since the last visit, there have been further changes to the management of the home. There is a new interim manager in post. They have not submitted an application to register with Ofsted. However, they say that they plan to do this.

The interim manager and responsible individual are working through an action plan to address the shortfalls outlined in the suspension notice. This includes improving the quality of children's records and monitoring processes.

A new staff team is being recruited to the home. Safer recruitment checks are currently ongoing. The interim manager and responsible individual plan to work with the new staff team to ensure its members have the knowledge and skills to safely care for children.

One previous member of staff continues to work at the home. They have received supervision with the interim manager to reflect on the issues leading to the suspension notice. They are being supported to develop their skills and knowledge, including processes and procedures. The member of staff has redone training to refresh their knowledge in safeguarding practices and to keep up to date with any changes.

The manager has further reviewed documentation, such as risk assessments and monitoring systems. This continues to help them to improve their oversight of staff practice to ensure that staff understand their roles and responsibilities.

The home has been redecorated, soft furnishings added and maintenance repairs have been completed. The home is free of hazards.

Currently, the home does not have enough staff to safely care for children. It is Ofsted's view that it is unsafe to admit any children into the home. Therefore, a further suspension notice has been issued. This will allow the provider time to recruit a staff team and provide staff with a robust induction plan to ensure they have the necessary knowledge, skills and training to meet children's needs.

The requirements raised at the full inspection were outside the scope of this visit and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/10/2025	Full	Inadequate
25/02/2025	Full	Good

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 with 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; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; 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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b))	1 March 2026

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; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; 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; and 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)(b)(c)(d)(f)(h))	1 March 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; if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual is of integrity and good character;	1 March 2026

the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for 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.

The registered person may permit an individual to start work at the home despite the fact that the requirement in paragraph (3)(d) has not been met if—

the registered person has taken all reasonable steps to obtain full information about each of the matters in Schedule 2 in respect of the individual, but the enquiries in relation to any of the matters in paragraphs 3 to 6 of Schedule 2 are incomplete;

full and satisfactory information in respect of the individual has been obtained in relation to the matters in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 2;

the registered person considers that the circumstances are exceptional; and

the registered person ensures that the individual is appropriately supervised while carrying out the individual's duties, pending receipt of any outstanding information on the matters in paragraphs 3 to 6 of Schedule 2, which is then considered satisfactory by the registered person.

The registered person must take reasonable steps to ensure that any individual who is working at the home and who does not fall within paragraph (2)(a) and (b) is appropriately supervised while carrying out the individual's duties.

(Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a) (3)(a)(b)(d) (7)(a)(b)(c)(d) (8))

Specifically, the registered person must ensure that satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service checks and overseas employment checks are conducted and remain current prior to employment, and that satisfactory references are obtained and gaps in employment history are explained and explored. If a person has previously worked in a position involving work with children or vulnerable adults, verification and assessment of the reason the employment or position ended should take place, supported by a clear rationale about the person's suitability for the role.

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— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans; help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child’s behaviour, in accordance with the child’s age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; 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; help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child’s age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful; help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship; strive to gain each child’s respect and trust; understand how children’s previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children;	1 March 2026
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understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable; and have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them; and that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(xii)(xiii)(b))	
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which— is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect; and sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect. (Regulation 34 (1)(a)(b)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that all managers and staff understand and follow safeguarding and allegation management policies.	1 March 2026
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose; that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and that each child's relevant plans are followed; and	1 March 2026

that the child's placing authority is contacted, and a review of that child's relevant plans is requested, if— the registered person considers that the child is at risk of harm or has concerns that the care provided for the child is inadequate to meet the child's needs; the child is, or has been, persistently absent from the home without permission. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(a)(b)(ii)(c)(e)(i)(ii))	
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; 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; or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(e))	1 March 2026
The registered provider must appoint, at the registered provider's expense, a person ("the independent person") to visit and report on the children's home carried on by the registered provider. Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), the registered provider may not appoint the following as an independent person— a person who has, or has had, a connection with— the registered person; which the registered provider considers to give rise to doubts about that person's impartiality (for the purposes of producing the independent person's report – see regulation 44).	1 March 2026

The independent person must declare any actual or potential conflict of interest (whether of the type mentioned in paragraph (3) or otherwise) to the registered provider without delay and, if reasonably practicable, before conducting a visit to the home. If the registered provider becomes aware of a potential conflict of interest in relation to the independent person before or during the independent person visiting the home (see regulation 44), the registered provider must— make arrangements to cancel the visit without delay; and appoint a different independent person to visit the home. (Regulation 43 (1) (3)(g)(i) (6) (7)(a)(b))	
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to achieve the child’s education and training targets, as recorded in the child’s relevant plans; support each child’s learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of	1 March 2026

exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; and help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(viii)(x)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children's personal education plans are accessible to the staff to support children with their targets and provide opportunities for informal learning and the development of independence skills when a child is out of education.	
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— 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) (2)(c)(i)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that the home is decorated and maintained to a good standard and that any broken items in the bathroom and children's bedrooms are repaired or replaced, the back yard is clean and tidy and the wall in the utility is decorated.	1 March 2026
The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and	1 March 2026

any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c))	
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Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2801032

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Polar Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: Halls House Farm, Chain Lane, Staining, Blackpool
FY3 0DP

Responsible individual: Jonathan Broadstock

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Julie Elder, Social Care Inspector

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