

2801609

Registered provider: Brighter Beginnings (HW) Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private provider and offers care for up to 3 children who have experienced social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities. At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home and spoke with the inspectors.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2024.

Inspection dates: 26 and 27 May 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: 22 October 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/10/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/07/2025	Full	Inadequate

Summary of findings

Staff provide a stable and supportive environment, where the child feels safe and cared for. The child receives good-quality care from a dedicated team of staff who know them well and understand their individual needs and vulnerabilities. As a result, the child has made positive progress from their starting points. Staff have built strong, trusting relationships with the child.

Staff, families and other professionals speak positively about the care provided to the child and recognise the positive impact that staff have had on the child's progress and development. Staff listen carefully to the child and provide nurturing and responsive care that supports their individual needs.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child has developed their confidence, emotional resilience and the ability to manage and express their emotions positively. They often choose to speak to staff about their worries and concerns. Staff help the child when they are struggling with their thoughts and feelings. A vision board is used to outline the child's aspirations and what they need to do to achieve their aims. This approach has successfully motivated the child.

The child has positive and trusting relationships with the staff. The child is confident and relaxed in the presence of staff, and they regularly talk to them about their needs, wishes and aspirations. The child has the confidence to voice when they need support and guidance, and staff advocate strongly for them.

Staff motivate the child to engage with wider external support. This is helping with the child's overall wellbeing and enabling them to express their thoughts and feelings safely. Creative ways to promote self-expression include the child attending a music studio where they are developing their skills and writing their own song lyrics.

The child is in good health, and staff actively encourage them to attend all healthcare appointments. Where appropriate, staff support the child to manage their own health needs. For example, when out in the community, the child is responsible for carrying and using their inhaler when needed.

Staff understand the complexity of family relationships and how these can impact on the child. Staff spend time with the child, listening to their memories and experiences with family and providing sensitive and therapeutic responses. When it is safe and appropriate, staff work with relatives to support them to maintain and build positive relationships. Any concerns about the time the child spends with their family are acted on effectively to safeguard the child and promote positive experiences.

The home is spacious and offers a variety of areas where the child can spend time. The child's bedroom is personalised to reflect their individual preferences. The outdoor space is also well maintained. However, the overall environment does not feel like a lived-in family home. There are limited personal touches, such as photos of the child, and there is a noticeable lack of age-appropriate books and games available throughout the home.

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

Staff understand how vulnerable the child can be. They work closely with external professionals to promote effective care and safety planning. Staff seek out opportunities to talk to the child about risk, which helps the child to learn how to keep themselves safe. Staff know the child well and recognise when they are feeling upset or worried about something. As a result, incidents involving the child going missing from home have reduced.

The child can identify staff members whom they can approach to express their worries and concerns. Staff have open conversations with the child, often discussing sensitive information in a child-friendly manner. Staff listen carefully to the child to understand their concerns. They can then respond appropriately and take prompt action to alleviate any worries and ensure that the child feels protected and safe.

One social worker explained that the child is making positive progress since moving to the home. Another professional said, 'The manager is possibly the best residential manager that I have worked with.' They complimented the manager's ability to communicate and their enthusiasm to keep the child safe.

Staff do not always have a sound understanding of risk or how to reduce it. Safety plans do not always contain the appropriate level of detail to provide important clarity for staff. Leaders and managers recognise that this is an area for development.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The leadership and management team is committed to achieving the best outcomes for the child. Leaders and managers spend time in the home and with the child. They have built positive and trusting relationships with the child, which is promoting the child's progress and ambition.

Staff supervision sessions are held regularly and focus on keeping the child safe and on the quality of care and support that is provided to the child. Team meetings and reflective practice sessions give staff a safe and supportive space to share their views and identify areas for learning and development.

There are enough staff to support the child. Several successful appointments have been made, including staff from the child's previous placement, which helps provide stability and continuity of care.

The manager understands the progress that the child is making and has put in additional support where barriers to further progress have been identified. For example, the manager has been proactive and persistent in gaining support from education professionals in finding an alternative educational provision for the child.

The manager has a strong understanding of the child's needs and is dedicated to ensuring that their needs are met. Staff practice is carefully monitored by the manager and senior leaders. Where any inconsistencies in care have been identified, these have been addressed promptly with staff, and appropriate support and guidance have been put in place to promote continuous development and improvement.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff continually and actively assess the risks to the child and understand the strategies that are in place to protect them. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 2801609

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Brighter Beginnings (HW) LTD

Registered provider address: 71-75 Shelton Street, 1st Formations, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9JQ

Responsible individual: Richard Gibbons

Registered manager: Sharon Gitau

Inspectors

Darren Wickens, Social Care Inspector
Martin Brown, Social Care Inspector

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