

SC004429

Registered provider: Action For Children Services Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This short-break service is registered to provide care for up to four children. Children who receive care may have a physical or learning disability along with a sensory impairment. The service is owned by a private organisation.

The manager registered with Ofsted in 2015, and she holds a level 5 diploma in leadership and management.

One child was having a short break at the time of the inspection. The inspector spent time with this child.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 November 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	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 11 February 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/02/2025	Full	Good
12/03/2024	Full	Good
15/03/2023	Full	Good
12/10/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children form good relationships with staff and with their peers. Staff understand children's needs and support them well. Due to effective assessment, children are grouped with peers they get on with. As a result, children enjoy their experiences during short breaks.

Staff plan a range of activities for children. Leaders and staff encourage children to say which activities they enjoy. Children experience regular meals out, trips to a pumpkin patch and in-house fitness and well-being activities. One parent told the inspector, 'They get out and about and do things they may not have done before.'

Leaders and staff understand children's health needs. Leaders work well with health professionals to form clear plans for children with specific health needs. Regular overnight checks take place on children in line with bespoke plans. In addition, staff have a good understanding of children's medication and the reasons for its use. This contributes to children's health needs being well supported.

Staff support children to develop their independence skills. Leaders have changed systems to reflect individual outcomes for children. Staff have a clear understanding of each child's target areas. These include completing activities, cooking and choosing clothing. Children are more successful in meeting goals due to their goals being more bespoke.

Leaders and staff have good relationships with families and professionals. Families are well consulted prior to children's first stay to gain the most up-to-date information. Staff regularly share updates about children's stays, as well as any changes in behaviour. Staff also share progress areas and how they supported children to achieve this progress, supporting consistency at home. One professional said to the inspector, 'I am absolutely delighted to say that the team there is amazing. Parents consistently praise the staff for their excellent communication and for going above and beyond in the care they provide. I also really appreciate the way the team make the effort to attend child in need meetings whenever.'

The environment is child focused and welcoming. Photos of children are regularly changed, and children are encouraged to bring items from home to help them feel settled. Each month staff introduce a different theme; most recently this was Halloween. This supports children to have a wider cultural experience.

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

Staff promote positive behaviour during short breaks. When challenges occur, staff use their knowledge of children and relationships to de-escalate situations quickly. This supports children and staff to maintain positive relationships.

Children enjoy their short breaks. Therefore, unwanted behaviours are rare. However, when they occur, staff are quick to notice signs of escalation. Staff ensure that physical interventions take place for the least amount of time. Following an intervention, children and staff share their reflections about the incident. This allows the manager to ensure that staff practice is appropriate.

Health and safety checks are carried out regularly. The deputy manager has good oversight of all checks. Where shortfalls are identified, these are promptly responded to. Children are supported through regular discussion to understand how to keep safe in the event of fires and emergencies. As a result, children are more confident when engaging in evacuation tests.

No complaints or allegations have been made since the last inspection. Leaders ensure that children understand how to share concerns using their bespoke communication methods. As a result, children are confident in sharing how they feel.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is a long-standing and child-focused registered manager. Due to this consistency and commitment, the staff team has remained consistent. The manager has a good understanding of the service. To support her understanding, she occasionally works a shift. This helps maintain the high quality of care provided to children.

Staff speak positively about the manager. One staff member said that she 'is really good' and that they 'are able to approach her with anything. She will give sound advice and opportunity to self-reflect if needed.'

Staff are happy with the support they receive from managers. Leaders promote an open-door policy, which means that staff share any concerns they have. Leaders encourage staff to think about practice and develop their skills. As a result, staff develop the relevant knowledge to carry out their roles.

The manager regularly reviews the quality of care for children. She has good systems to identify areas for development. This contributes to consistency and progress across the staff team.

Leaders provide staff with a range of learning opportunities. The manager is proactive in sourcing training that staff require. This helps ensure that staff are confident in their roles.

No requirements or recommendations have been made at this inspection.

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: SC004429

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Action For Children Services Ltd

Registered provider address: 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford WD18 8AG

Responsible individual: Anna Lindop

Registered manager: Louise Tumulty

Inspector

Chanel Bryant, Social Care Inspector

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