

SC005553

Registered provider: Dalepeak Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a private organisation. The home provides care for up to four children with learning disabilities.

At the time of the inspection, there were two children living at the home. One child was spoken to during the inspection.

The home registered with Ofsted in June 1999. The manager was registered with Ofsted in September 2010.

Inspection dates: 7 and 8 October 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account

requires improvement to be good

How well children and young people are helped and protected

requires improvement to be good

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

requires improvement to be good

The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 11 March 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/03/2025	Full	Good
06/02/2024	Full	Good
14/03/2023	Full	Good
08/02/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

The overall progress and experiences of children are impacted by shortfalls in safeguarding practices and management oversight.

One child's social worker and an education professional reported that a child wished to go away on a specific trip. However, staff could not take the child away for this trip. This response could impact on the child feeling listened to by those adults who care for him.

Staff use well-embedded communication strategies, including the use of PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and PBS (Positive Behaviour Support) with children. These approaches are tailored to children's individual needs and contribute to improved engagement with children. This improves children's overall emotional well-being.

Children make good progress in education. Staff maintain relationships with educational professionals and education providers. Staff focus on promoting children's attendance in school and their academic achievements. This helps children work towards their educational goals. Staff monitor children's educational outcomes. Staff celebrate children's progress.

Staff ensure that children's health needs are met. Children have access to appropriate healthcare services, and staff are proactive in supporting appointments, medication routines and specialist support if required. This ensures that children's physical and emotional health is prioritised.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Safeguarding practice is not consistent. Staff do not consistently follow relevant policies and procedures when children make allegations in relation to staff. Staff do not demonstrate professional curiosity. On some occasions, staff do not escalate concerns appropriately. This could impact on staff's ability to keep children safe from potential harm.

In one instance, a member of staff failed to disclose or follow protocol when an allegation was made against a child. Therefore, concerns were not responded to in a timely manner.

The home does not use physical restraint, and this is a positive aspect of practice. Staff manage incidents when children are in crisis through de-escalation techniques and nurturing relationships. This promotes a safe and supportive environment for children and young people, where their dignity and emotional well-being are respected.

Children do not go missing from home. This demonstrates that children are settled living at home.

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

Most safeguarding incidents are managed effectively. However, on two occasions, management oversight was poor. There was limited action taken. This compromises the ability of staff to respond appropriately to risks.

The absence of consistent management has led to delays in addressing safeguarding matters. This undermines staff's ability to ensure children's well-being and safety.

The registered manager does not use team meetings effectively to ensure that staff receive up-to-date and relevant information. Communication systems lack consistency, and important updates are not always shared across the staff team. As a result, staff do not always have the knowledge they need to respond appropriately to children's needs or emerging risks.

Staff receive regular supervision. These sessions provide opportunities for reflection, professional development and discussion of practice. Supervision is used to support staff's well-being. This contributes to a stable and consistent approach to meeting children's needs. However, some elements of supervision records are duplicated across staff. This undermines the effectiveness of individual professional development.

During the inspection, it was noted that two of the three children have reached adulthood while residing at the children's home. Staff could not provide a clear plan regarding a child that has moved out of the home. Therefore, staff could not demonstrate that the child experienced a positive end to his time living at the home.

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 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; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(vi)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that when safeguarding incidents are raised, the safeguarding policy is followed and concerns are investigated thoroughly.	8 December 2025
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—	8 December 2025

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; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that changes in risk assessments, staff practice or needs of the child are shared with the staff in a timely manner.	
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— develop positive relationships with them; engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the	8 December 2025

quality of the home's care; help each child to understand how the child's privacy will be respected and the circumstances when it may have to be limited; help each child to prepare for any review of the child's relevant plans and to make the child's views, wishes and feelings known for the purposes of that review; and make each child aware of and, if necessary, remind them of each of the matters in sub-paragraph (d)(i) to (iii); ensure that each child— is enabled to provide feedback to, and raise issues with, a relevant person about the support and services that the child receives; has access to the home's children's guide, and the home's complaints procedure, when the child's placement in the home is agreed and throughout the child's stay in the home; and is given appropriate advocacy support. (Regulation 7 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)(i)(ii)(iii)) In particular, the registered person must consider a child's wishes and feelings when planning activities or holidays.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— 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	8 December 2025

inadequate to meet the child's needs;

the child is, or has been, persistently absent from the home without permission; or

the child requests a review of the child's relevant plans.
(Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(e)(i)(ii)(iii))

In particular, the registered person must ensure that they provide care 'wholly and mainly' for children. The registered person must ensure that a regular review of is considered to continue to meet children's ongoing needs.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the quality of care review is evaluative and contains feedback from wider stakeholders. The review should enable the registered person to identify areas of strength and possible weakness in the home's care, which will be captured in the written report. The report should clearly identify any actions required for the next six months of delivery within the home and how those actions will be addressed. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 65, paragraphs 15.2 and 15.4)
- The registered person should ensure that staff have an opportunity to reflect on their practice during individual supervision sessions. This should be recorded, as appropriate, on the staff supervision record. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 39, paragraph 8.15)

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: SC005553

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Dalepeak Limited

Registered provider address: 60 School Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6QE

Responsible individual: Lisa McCloskey

Registered manager: John Allen

Inspector

James Meeks, 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
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