

SC007290

Registered provider:

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider to care for up to four children with social and or/emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in October 1998. The manager registered in 2007.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home.

Inspection date: 20 February 2025

Date of last inspection: 1 October 2024

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Managers have made progress in addressing the requirements and recommendations raised at the last inspection.

Most children make safe choices through the support of meaningful conversations with staff that are tailored to their unique needs and vulnerabilities. While one child is reluctant to engage in these discussions, staff continue to foster good communication.

Educational progress among the children varies. Since the last inspection, one child has started to attend school full time. Meanwhile, another child's immediate educational provision is still uncertain. While arrangements are secured, staff are offering support.

Children have access to health professionals and receive staff support to attend any necessary health appointments.

Children's care plans and risk assessments are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect their changing needs. These documents are clear and accessible and outline the steps that staff need to take to mitigate risks to the children.

When children are missing from home or late arriving home, there is a clear process staff follow to promote their safety during these times. When incidents occur, managers ensure that children's social workers and family members are informed.

When safeguarding incidents occur, these are notified to the relevant safeguarding agencies. However, Ofsted is still not always being notified.

Staff receive training that is related to the children's needs. On the day of the inspection, a two-day training event was taking place to support staff working with children with autism.

The restructuring of staff and the organisation has now been completed. This has allowed for staff to have clearer roles and responsibilities, and this has helped to ensure that children receive consistent care.

Although management oversight has increased, managers do not yet have a system in place to evaluate and assess the quality of care.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/03/2024	Full	Good
27/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/01/2022	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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 leadership and management standard. 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; and 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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(f)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 May 2025
The care planning standard requires the registered person to notify Ofsted and other relevant persons if one of the situations specified in regulation 40(4)(a)-(d) occurs, or if there is an incident relating to the protection, safeguarding or welfare of a child living in the home which the registered person considers to be serious (40(4)(e)) This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 May 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC007290

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Responsible individual: Careen Smith

Registered manager: Deborah Pacquette

Inspector

Richard Wyper, 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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