

SC032475

Registered provider: Trafford Borough Council

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a local authority. The home provides care for up to five children who may experience social and emotional difficulties or a learning disability.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2023.

Inspection date: 21 November 2024

Date of last inspection: 16 April 2024

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

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.

This inspection took place to look at escalating concerns that were notified to Ofsted. The inspector evaluated how children were affected and assessed the actions of leaders and staff.

Children have been able to develop positive relationships with staff working in this home. Children are cared for by an experienced and consistent staff team that knows them well. Many staff working at the home have been there for a number of years.

Since the last inspection, improvements have been made to the environment. The home has had new windows fitted throughout, and further work is scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. As a result, this is a nicer place for children to live.

Staff liaise with health professionals to ensure that children's health needs are met. This includes working with other agencies to support children with their emotional well-being. Children are appropriately encouraged and supported to attend routine medical appointments.

Children are given opportunities to share their views on their care and the daily routines of the home. The registered manager responds to children individually, so that they know their opinions are valued.

The registered manager recognises the importance of well-considered transitions for children moving into and on from this home. One child has recently returned to live with their family, and there are plans in place to support another child to move into their own accommodation.

Incidents are well managed. Staff work hard to try and de-escalate challenging behaviour, acting on any concerns relating to children to ensure that they are kept safe. This includes working with other agencies and professionals. Individual key-work sessions focus on children's specific needs and vulnerabilities.

The registered manager undertakes regular monitoring and oversight of the home. The registered manager reviews incidents to ensure that any follow-up actions are completed and seeks to identify patterns and trends in children's behaviours.

There has been an incident where one child has gone missing from this home. Staff have taken appropriate action to find the child and encourage them to return home. The child had access to an independent return home interview.

Staff, including agency staff, receive regular supervision to support them in their role. Staff report that during recent challenges, the registered manager, responsible

individual and head of service have provided reassurance and support, which is reflected in their continued dedication to their roles.

Assessments are undertaken before children move into the home. The registered manager considers the needs of the children already living in the home and if they can meet the needs of the child being referred. However, for one child, the assessment did not evidence that all information had been fully explored before their admission.

The remaining requirement raised at the full inspection was not looked at during this visit. Therefore, it remains until the home's next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/04/2024	Full	Good
31/10/2023	Full	Good
06/12/2022	Full	Good
12/10/2021	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 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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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. 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)(h)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that all relevant information is included within records, such as pre-admission assessments.	17 January 2025
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; and are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b))	17 January 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC032475

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Trafford Borough Council

Registered provider address: Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 0TH

Responsible individual: Sally Rimmer

Registered manager: Adam Fletcher

Inspector

Genevieve O'Reilly, Social Care Inspector

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