

SC032496

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. It is registered to provide care for up to six children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

There were two children living in the home at the time of this inspection. One child spoke with the inspector.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2017.

Inspection date: 26 August 2025

Date of last inspection: 24 April 2025

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.

This home is led by an experienced and knowledgeable registered manager. The registered manager has taken swift action to address shortfalls and previous requirements made. However, two have been reissued as further work is required.

There has been a significant decrease in serious incidents during this inspection period and police have not had to attend the home to manage children's behaviour. Paperwork that provides strategies for staff to follow when children are distressed is now much more comprehensive and useful. This has enabled staff to successfully de-escalate challenging situations. Staff say that their manager supports their wellbeing through difficult times.

There have been significantly fewer episodes of children going missing from home. When children have gone missing, staff have tried to contact them regularly overnight. This helps to alert staff sooner if children are in danger and reminds children that their carers want them home safe.

Staff have worked well with other professionals to share information when children are at risk of harm. When children are not safe in the local area, managers have appropriately advocated for them to be moved to a different area. One child was moved the same day when an alternative home became available. Despite the quick turnaround, the child was still taken to visit their new home before committing to the move.

Staff have held regular conversations with children to help them understand how to keep themselves safe and healthy. They have provided more resources to children to help them understand risks and have planned some conversations based on children's presenting needs. However, there are some serious topics which have still not been sufficiently explored with children. The requirement for this has been reissued.

Staff and managers regularly seek and record children's wishes and feelings. When children have struggled to manage their own emotions, the registered manager speaks to them when they are calm to seek their perspective on what happened. The manager is applying learning from these conversations into practice.

Children continue to make progress in their education and all children in the home have achieved their educational goals such as sitting their exams, being accepted into college and completing vocational courses.

Leaders and managers have identified training for staff to meet the presenting needs of children. Staff say the training that they have been provided with has been useful. Staff understand their responsibilities when safeguarding concerns arise.

Management monitoring has improved significantly. The registered manager is making good use of internal and external monitoring systems and has oversight of all safeguarding incidents. While the registered manager is beginning to provide much more in-depth evaluation of significant incidents, this is not yet fully embedded and consistent. The requirement for this has been reissued.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/04/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/04/2024	Full	Good
20/09/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/09/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be 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, 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 positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to develop socially aware behaviour; encourage each child to take responsibility for the child's behaviour, in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; communicate to each child expectations about the child's behaviour and ensure that the child understands those expectations in accordance with the child's age and understanding; help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child's age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful; help each child to develop the understanding and skills to recognise or withdraw from a damaging, exploitative or harmful relationship; understand and communicate to children that bullying is unacceptable;	28 October 2025

have the skills to recognise incidents or indications of bullying and how to deal with them; and that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(b)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that each child is provided with proactive keywork sessions that are planned based on children's presenting needs and feelings.	
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; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; 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)(g)(i)(h)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that incidents are evaluated to establish patterns and trends and identify areas of learning for staff in order to make continuous improvements.	28 October 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC032496

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: Alicia Cooper

Inspector

Aislinn Cooper, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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