

# SC035339

Registered provider: Oldham Children's Social Care

Full 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 provides care for up to four children who may have social or emotional difficulties. At the time of this inspection, three children were living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2025.

### Inspection dates: 16 and 17 September 2025

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account | <b>good</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

|                                                             |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| How well children and young people are helped and protected | good |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|

|                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------------|------|
| The effectiveness of leaders and managers | good |
|-------------------------------------------|------|

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 21 May 2024

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 21/05/2024      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 03/05/2023      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 28/06/2022      | Full            | Good                            |
| 07/01/2020      | Full            | Inadequate                      |

## **Inspection judgements**

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

All three children spoke with the inspector.

Since the last inspection, two children have moved out in line with their plans and two children have moved into the home. The children who have moved out were supported by staff to live independently. These children still visit the home and keep in regular contact with staff. They are always made to feel welcome when they visit.

Children benefit from positive relationships with the staff who support them. Staff provide children with continuity of care and provide them with consistency and stability in their lives. A child said, 'I feel comfortable talking to the staff. They are kind and caring.'

Staff promote the children's positive experiences and progress. They provide children with well-planned, personalised care, that promotes their needs effectively. Staff support children to see their families and friends. As a result, they sustain their close relationships with the people who matter most to them.

One child is attending school regularly. However, other children struggle with their educational attendance. Staff are not proactive enough in occupying children's time by engaging them in alternative learning activities when they are not in education. This means that children lack positive routines to stimulate their opportunities for learning.

Children's interests are promoted. Staff provide enjoyable activities for children. Children have enjoyed a recent sightseeing trip to London and enjoyed a summer holiday abroad in Spain with the staff.

Staff promote the good health and emotional well-being of children. They ensure that the health needs of children are reliably met. They support children to attend their health appointments and encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle.

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

Staff have a good understanding of the children's needs and vulnerabilities. Staff prioritise the safety of children and remain alert to the risk of harm. They implement individualised risk management plans to reduce known risks to children to keep them safe from harm.

Children know how to make a complaint, and their rights are promoted effectively. There have been no complaints, allegations or restraints since the last inspection. A child said, 'Staff help me to be more independent, and they show me that they care.'

Staff look for children if they are absent or go missing from the home. There is an effective response from staff to ensure that children are located quickly to secure their safe return. However, the children's missing from home risk management plans do not highlight their assessed vulnerabilities or record the reporting procedures clearly, for staff to follow.

Staff maintain strong partnerships with safeguarding professionals. They ensure that significant incidents are reported to the appropriate authorities to protect children from harm. Staff employed are vetted and selected carefully to protect children from unsuitable individuals.

Health and safety matters are addressed effectively by staff to promote a safe environment for children. Overall, the home environment is of a good standard and quality. However, a child's bedroom was found to be untidy and the room was full of clutter.

The annex building attached to the main home is not furnished or decorated to a good standard and needs new furniture and complete redecoration. In addition, the washing facilities and the kitchen in the annex are dated.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

An experienced registered manager is now employed at the home. This has resulted in the improved management oversight of the care provided for children. The manager is supported by an experienced deputy manager who deputises in the managers absence. This ensures that the home is managed efficiently and effectively.

A stable and consistent staff team is now employed. This provides children with improved consistency and familiarity. Staff benefit from regular practice-related supervision sessions. This encourages reflective discussions to support staff's practice and improved performance.

Team meetings take place on a regular basis. These are used by staff, leaders and managers to review the children's progress and experiences. These meetings are also attended by a clinical psychologist who provides consultations with the team that supports their trauma informed practice.

Staff benefit from good quality training that helps them meet the specific needs of children. For example, staff are trained in Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE) and have access to other forms of relevant training.

The manager makes effective use of the home's independent monitoring activities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the care provided. This allows leaders and managers to address any shortcomings ensuring continuous improvement.

The manager has conducted a thorough quality of care review which considers the children's experiences and takes account of the views of professionals and stakeholders.

## 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       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <p>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; and</p> <p>help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans.<br/>(Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(viii)(x))</p> <p>This was a requirement at the last inspection and is restated.</p> | 1 October 2025 |
| <p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>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;</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1 October 2025 |

have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;

understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; and

take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi))

This relates specifically to each child having an individualised risk management plan for staff to follow should children go missing from the home.

## Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the annex building is maintained, decorated and furnished to a high-quality standard for children. Additionally, the registered person should also ensure that children's bedrooms are kept tidy and free from clutter. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 15, paragraph 3.9)

## 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:** SC035339

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider address:** Metropolitan House, Hobson Street, Oldham OL1 1HD

**Responsible individual:** Nicholas Whitbread

**Registered manager:** Ryan Robinson

## Inspector

Anthony Kyem, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2025