

SC040733

Registered provider: Salford City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by the local authority and provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home. Two children spoke with the inspector.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2023.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 October 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 3 December 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/12/2024	Full	Good
16/08/2023	Full	Good
31/08/2022	Full	Good
03/05/2022	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Two of the children have remained living at the home since the last inspection. A third child who had previously lived at the home has returned at their request as they said that this was somewhere they had enjoyed living and felt safe. The child was welcomed back into the home by staff who knew and understood their needs well.

The home environment has undergone substantial improvements and redecoration. The children were supported to move into another home owned by the local authority for several weeks with the staff team, while the refurbishment took place. Children say that they felt included in this process and were able to have a say with aspects of the redecoration, including their bedrooms. One child said, 'It was quite emotional coming back to the house, it felt like a new home.'

Staff consistently support children to overcome barriers in attending their educational provisions and help children to understand the importance of improving attendance and regular revision. Staff and teaching professionals work closely together to promote learning in and out of the home, with children working towards their final years in school and exploring job opportunities in the local community.

Children's health needs are well understood and they are empowered to take control of their own medication in line with their age and understanding. Children's routine health appointments are up to date and, as a result, children's oral hygiene has improved.

Children spend time in the community with their friends and, where appropriate, can have regular time with their families, including overnight stays. Staff take time to get to know children's families and friendship groups and understand the importance of these relationships for children.

Staff encourage children's independence in line with their age and development. Children know how to do their own laundry and are learning how to budget, shop and cook for themselves, with staff support.

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

Staff share a consistent and dynamic approach to reducing risks for children. Helping children to understand how to keep themselves safe is at the forefront of staff practice. Staff have positive and trusting relationships with children and, as a result, children regularly engage in direct work with staff around recognising and reducing their individual risks.

Missing-from-home incidents are very well managed. Staff always do everything they can to find children and follow their missing-from-home risk assessments and protocols. It is clear that staff know the children very well and understand what triggers to look out for and strategies to use to help reduce further incidents of children missing from the home.

Incidents in the home are well managed and staff use appropriate de-escalation strategies that work for children individually. There have been no incidents resulting in physical intervention since the last inspection. Staff help and support children to understand and learn from conflict or challenging situations. However, the knowledge and strategies that staff use to manage behaviour are not always reflected in children's written plans and documents. On one occasion, the manager did not notify Ofsted of a significant incident within the home.

Children are often praised and rewarded for positive behaviour and achievements. Incentives are devised with children's input in line with their interests and are used creatively to motivate children. Consequences are rarely used. However, when they are used they are often ineffective and are not always fully evaluated by the manager.

The manager recruits staff from a variety of backgrounds and is fully involved in the recruitment process. However, she does not always fully explore staff employment history, in particular when staff have worked overseas. This is a shortfall in safer recruitment practice.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by an experienced and nurturing manager who ensures that the staff team provide consistent warmth, care and nurture for the children. Children identify the manager as someone they trust and can approach for support or help should they need it.

Staff say that the manager is approachable, supportive and ever present. Staff say that they feel valued and are given extensive opportunities to learn and progress. Supervision takes place regularly and is reflective, child-focused and practice-led. Staff conduct or any practice issues are appropriately addressed, and guidance or additional support is provided to staff who may need it. Staff appraisals are thorough and used to celebrate staff achievements and the relationships they have built with children.

Team meetings are regularly held and well attended. Children are discussed in detail and examples of good practice are shared across the staff team. Staff have the opportunity within meetings to reflect on practice and areas for development. External professionals are also welcomed into team meetings to support staff with any concerns for the children or areas for development.

Feedback from external professionals is overwhelmingly positive and praises the advocacy and support the manager provides to and on behalf of the children. One social worker said, 'She is not afraid to challenge when needed and makes sure she gets the best possible outcomes for children.'

The manager has extensive oversight of the home, reviews and evaluates consistently, and ensures that any identified actions for children are completed. She has systems in place that allow for regular review of staff practice and a clear development plan for the home with realistic and aspirational goals for both children and staff.

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 registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(vii)(b)(i)(ii))	5 December 2025
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The requirements are that— full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (3)(d))	5 December 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that they notify Ofsted of all serious incidents. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 4.10)
- The registered person should ensure that all children's records are kept up to date, relevant and include input from children where appropriate. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 58, paragraph 11.19)

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: SC040733

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester
M27 5DA

Registered manager: Rebecca Eccleston

Inspector

Justina Henry, Social Care Inspector

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