

SC064182

Registered provider: Lodge Group Care UK Limited

Full Inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately run and provides care for up to 6 children. According to the statement of purpose, the home provides care for children with autism and learning disabilities.

The service offers 5 long-term placements and one short-term placement. The manager registered with Ofsted in 2013.

At the time of this inspection, 5 children were living in the home. The inspector met all of the children.

Inspection dates: 18 and 19 March 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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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	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 19 March 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/03/2025	Full	Good
15/11/2023	Full	Good
14/03/2023	Full	Good
01/02/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Children receive exceptionally high-quality care based on their individual needs. They experience a homely and warm environment, supported by a diverse staff team that is highly motivated to ensure the children achieve the best possible outcomes.

Relationships in the home are warm and trusting. Staff understand each child's sensory needs and emotional triggers. They use creative strategies to reduce anxiety and offer children space to share openly about any concerns and worries. This level of emotional understanding helps the children to build trust, confidence and a strong sense of belonging.

The children are non-verbal, and staff use various methods of communication to engage with them. This includes using a responsive approach, social stories, pictures and signs. For example, staff present children with different toys for activities, and children choose by pointing. This helps staff to understand children's wishes and feelings and to meet their needs, and it gives the children some autonomy.

The health and wellbeing of children are prioritised. Children are registered with local healthcare services and are supported to attend appointments and receive treatment when necessary. One child has significant medical needs, and so staff ensure they attend routine and specialist health appointments. They work closely with health professionals to make sure the child receives the right healthcare at the right time. If necessary, staff proactively seek alternative or additional support services to meet the child's specific needs, ensuring their health, wellbeing and ongoing development are promoted effectively.

Educational attendance and success are key features of the progress children make in this home. Children are supported to maintain their previous educational placements. This means that children retain important relationships with known adults and peers. Children's attendance levels are excellent. Staff promote a seamless learning environment, in which everything the children do is seen as a learning event. The registered manager has high aspirations for the children, and the staff work creatively with professionals to support the children's engagement with education.

Family time is supported well. Staff work effectively to build trusting relationships with families and encourage their participation in the development of their child's care. Parents visit the home, cook meals and help staff to develop menus based on traditional family favourites. This means that children enjoy familiar foods that they enjoy.

Children enjoy a range of activities, from going to the beach to baking in the home. Photos of children enjoying these unique opportunities are displayed throughout the home and captured in memory books to demonstrate that children have fun, enjoy time with staff and have lasting positive memories about this home.

The home feels homely, and there is evidence of the children's presence everywhere. Their bedrooms are comfortable and personalised. The home provides a safe space that the children can enjoy. It is thoughtfully organised and beneficial to the children. The children enjoy positive relationships with staff, and there is a sense of family.

The plan to replace the original fire doors is almost complete, with the remaining 2 fire doors planned for replacement in the near future.

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

A strong safeguarding culture underpins practice in the home. The registered manager is committed to maintaining high standards of safeguarding practice. This is achieved by continuously enhancing staff's knowledge through effective training, reflective supervision and practice-based learning. This results in a highly skilled team that can respond swiftly and effectively to any safeguarding concerns.

Assessments and plans clearly identify potential risks and are informed by evidence and information about the child. They are clearly structured, with colour coding used to highlight and reflect the child's specific needs. Staff have a full understanding of how to identify and manage risks, and this is consistently reflected in their practice. There is no complacency when considering the risks to children. This ensures that children are supported to live safely, with their wellbeing promoted effectively.

Staff deliver purposeful and relevant key-work sessions that support children's individual development. Through these sessions, children build essential life skills, including developing independence, using alternative communication methods, following routines, managing emotions and taking greater responsibility for their personal care. Key work is closely aligned with each child's individual plan and starting points, ensuring activities are meaningful and tailored. This approach enables children to safely take age-appropriate risks, supporting their confidence and overall development.

Staff are provided with continuous learning opportunities to review the safety plans for children. For example, team meetings are used for reflective practice, research and development sessions and for opportunities to explore potential scenarios where a child may be at risk. This ensures that staff are alert to the potential signs of danger and the actions to take to mitigate any such risk.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

A dedicated registered manager leads this home. She speaks with passion about the children, demonstrating a genuine commitment to meeting their needs. She is inspirational, forward-thinking and innovative. Her vision is to continue providing the children with the outstanding care that they currently receive.

Leaders and managers are fully aware of the home's strengths and areas for development. They maintain rigorous oversight through daily logs, weekly catchups, risk

reviews and multi-agency meetings. This ensures practice remains consistent, reflective and effective. The sustained reduction in risk behaviours, emotional dysregulation and incidents is clear evidence of the impact of strong and effective leadership.

The continuous development of staff is a prominent feature in this home. Research-led practice, such as a trauma-informed approach and the development of communication methods, has strengthened the already skilled staff team and the development of children's care, progress and experiences.

The leadership team creates a culture where staff feel valued, supported and motivated. This stability and consistency directly benefit the children, who experience reliable care from staff who know them well and are committed to their progress.

Staff morale is very positive, and retention is excellent. Staff are passionate about their work and the impact that they have on children's lives. Their passion and commitment enhance the quality of care provided to children.

Staff receive consistent formal and informal supervision and unwavering support from the management team. Staff undertake annual mandatory training and a range of bespoke training opportunities that reflect the needs of the children living in the home.

The manager places enormous value on the children's happiness and safety and on their sense of fun and exploration. As a result, parents and professionals say that their children are making significant and sustained progress.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the interior of the home continues to be maintained, including completing the planned replacement of the fire doors. ('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: SC064182

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lodge Group Care UK Limited

Registered provider address: 87 High Street, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8JA

Responsible individual: John Timbs

Registered manager: Alina Opris

Inspector

Sadia Akhtar, Social Care Inspector

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