

SC065067

Registered provider: Salford City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority children's home. The home is registered to provide care for three children with social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

There were two children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager was registered with Ofsted in July 2024.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 July 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: 7 August 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/08/2024	Full	Good
16/05/2023	Full	Good
19/04/2022	Full	Good
19/10/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are supported to build positive relationships with staff. Staff treat children with dignity and respect. Staff spoken to during the inspection spoke fondly and with pride about the children they support.

Staff actively support and encourage children to engage in education. When challenges arise, the manager and staff work collaboratively with schools to identify and implement strategies that meet individual needs. This approach recently enabled one child to successfully sit their exams.

Children are offered a wide range of recreational activities, including walks, bike rides, snooker and laser tag. In addition, staff promote participation in community-led initiatives, such as youth clubs and group activities, providing children with opportunities to form friendships and explore new interests.

Staff also recognise that, given their age, children often wish to spend time independently either with friends outside the home or engaging with devices and gaming consoles. This is facilitated with appropriate monitoring and boundaries to ensure children's safety and well-being.

There are regular direct-work sessions taking place with the children, both reactively and planned. Staff use their positive relationships with children to discuss topics that children may find difficult to talk about. This work is complemented by the work completed by external specialist professionals, such as the complex safeguarding team (Connect), county lines case workers (Catch-22) and the local authority mental health services for cared for children (STARLAC).

When children have moved out of the home, the manager and staff have worked with the child, their placing authority and their families to support them to move in a planned and sensitive way under their individual circumstances.

The home has recently undergone a full refurbishment. Children were involved in plans for the redecoration of the home. The garden has a new addition of chickens and a vegetable patch. This has given the children a sense of shared responsibility.

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

Staff receive appropriate training in safeguarding, and the subject is consistently addressed as a standing item during supervision sessions. This ongoing focus helps to embed a strong safeguarding culture within the home. When children raise concerns, these are responded to promptly, with all relevant agencies informed in accordance with safeguarding procedures. The child's welfare always remains the central priority.

Support plans and risk assessments are comprehensive and outline individualised strategies to guide staff in delivering consistent care. These plans are implemented effectively in day-to-day practice, ensuring that each child's unique needs are met.

When significant events arise in the home, staff take suitable action and follow de-escalation strategies detailed in children's plans, along with their relationships with children, to support them during the incident. There have been no occasions when it has been necessary for staff to physically hold a child to keep them safe. Staff ensure that follow-up work takes place after events to help children and staff reflect. This helps children feel valued and encourages positive behaviour.

When children are missing from the home, staff take suitable action to search for them and to support them to return as quickly and safely as possible. Staff work with external professionals, such as the missing-from-home team and the police, to support a safe return.

Achievements are suitably rewarded and celebrated to support and encourage children to develop good character. When it has been necessary to impose a consequence because of negative behaviour, this has been reasonable and proportionate. However, this is not always reviewed to ensure that the measure is effective.

When children display self-harm behaviours, staff have suitable plans in place to support them with this and to ensure their safety. They provide emotional support and reassurance and seek support from external medical and well-being professionals when necessary.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is a manager in place who is dedicated and inspirational. She is supported by a deputy manager who shares her ambitious vision for what children can achieve. Leaders and managers know the children well.

Staff enjoy working at the home and feel valued and supported. There is a positive ethos within the home, and the staff team aspires to improve the lives of the children who live in the home. Staff have clear roles and responsibilities and have a shared sense of ownership and accountability. They work well as a team, and managers lead by example.

There is a stable and consistent team of staff. This means that children are supported by staff who know them well. Staff have completed a wide variety of training, including subjects to help them support children's individual needs. However, some staff have not completed refresher training in a timely manner.

Leaders and managers have systems for the monitoring and oversight of the home. They use these systems effectively to highlight positive practice and to address any shortfalls and drive improvements.

Supervision sessions take place regularly. These are practice related and are a supportive tool for staff. In addition to this, team meetings are held often, they are well attended and staff understand their value. They are used as an opportunity for staff to share information and reflect on the previous month and as a training and development opportunity. The STARLAC practitioner also attends these meetings to provide support for the team and to share strategies and guidance to help care for children.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all incidents of control, discipline and restraint, including imposed consequences, are subject to systems of regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair and the effectiveness is evaluated. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.36)
- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, including ensuring that staff complete refresher training within a suitable timescale. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)

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: SC065067

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Salford City Council

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

Responsible individual: Emma Simpson

Registered manager: Daisy Wainwright

Inspector

Katie Tomlinson, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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