

SC357455

Registered provider: Woodside House Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private provider operates this home. The home provides care for up to 4 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home was registered with Ofsted in February 2008, and a new manager has recently been appointed.

At the time of this inspection, 3 children were living in the home.

Inspection dates: 12 and 13 May 2026

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: 25 June 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/06/2025	Full	Good
04/03/2025	Full	Outstanding
02/10/2023	Full	Good
14/06/2022	Full	Outstanding

Summary of findings

Children are settled in the home and have positive relationships with staff. They take part in a range of enjoyable activities together, which helps them feel connected and supported. Children also benefit from regular direct work sessions that help them explore and manage any worries. They continue to spend time with people who are important to them.

Children have individual risk assessments that outline clear strategies to guide staff practice. When a child goes missing from home, staff follow appropriate procedures to support their safe return. However, the effectiveness of consequences is not consistently recorded, which limits the home's ability to evaluate what works well for each child.

Since the last inspection, the home has experienced a change in ownership and management. These changes have not directly impacted the children's day-to-day experiences. Staff receive regular supervision and take part in team meetings, which helps maintain consistency in care. Leaders and managers could further strengthen their oversight by more effectively using feedback from the independent person to inform their monitoring and development of the service.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Two children have moved into the home since the last inspection. One child experienced a planned transition and has settled well. The second child arrived in an emergency. Staff provided supportive care during the move-in period. However, it soon became clear that the environment was not the right fit for the child's needs. Staff worked with the provider to arrange a planned move to one of the organisation's other homes, where the child is now settled.

Staff ensure that children spend time with their family. Staff work hard to understand children's relationships with their family. This helps to ensure that children are safe when they see people who are important to them.

Children benefit from opportunities to enjoy different activities of their choice. Children enjoy activities together, such as going to adventure parks or ice skating. These memories are saved in a file for children to keep. This helps them to increase their social interactions and to develop interpersonal skills.

Staff help children understand the risks around them through ongoing direct work sessions. These sessions cover topics such as vaping, smoking and online safety, giving children age-appropriate guidance to help them make safer choices.

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

Staff have a strong understanding of each child's risks and vulnerabilities. Children have individual risk assessments that are regularly reviewed and updated, ensuring that staff always have the most current information about their needs. Children's plans include clear strategies to support them, which helps staff provide consistent, predictable care and respond safely to any emerging risks.

There are limited incidents within the home. However, when they have occurred, staff have acted appropriately, and children have been supported to remain safe.

When children have been missing from home, staff have followed procedures and sought to contact family to locate the child. Staff have ensured that children have had an independent return home interview and that follow-up work has been completed.

Staff use de-escalation techniques with children before using a physical intervention. There have been incidents of physical intervention. Records demonstrate that these are proportionate and necessary to keep the child and staff safe. Physical intervention records include information in line with regulation.

When consequences are used, they are appropriate, and staff explain to children why they are used. However, the effectiveness of consequences is not consistently recorded, which limits the manager's ability to evaluate what works well for each child.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Since the last inspection, there has been a change in ownership and several changes in management. However, this has been managed well and has not had a direct impact on the children. The newly appointed manager has submitted their application to Ofsted.

Staff say they enjoy working at the home and that they are supported by the management team. One staff member said, 'They make sure you are ok and feel valued and listened to and you can really feel the improvements being made.'

Staff follow safer recruitment processes to ensure that all pre-employment checks are completed. These checks confirm that only suitable adults are employed to work with children in the home.

Supervisions take place regularly, and staff use these sessions to reflect on children's experiences and how best to support them. Team meetings have strengthened since the new manager took up the role, and these discussions are now more reflective and focused on improving practice. During the most recent meeting, one child was invited to join part of the session to share their views, helping staff understand what matters to them and how to shape their care accordingly.

Leaders and managers have a good understanding of the home's strengths and the areas that require further development. Their oversight could be strengthened by more rigorous monitoring from the independent person. Without this level of scrutiny, leaders and managers miss opportunities to identify patterns, evaluate practice and take timely action to improve the service.

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 prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. 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. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b)(3)(vii)) In particular, leaders and managers must ensure that the effectiveness of consequences is recorded to understand the impact upon the child.	2 August 2026

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that any individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as an independent person must make a rigorous and impartial assessment. The registered person must ensure that the independent person consults regularly with a range of stakeholders as part of their assessment of the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 65, paragraph 15.5)

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: SC357455

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Woodside House Care Ltd

Responsible individual: Sean Ferguson

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Karen Andrews, Social Care Inspector

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