

SC394478

Registered provider: Cornerstone Children's Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is managed and run by a private company.

The home is registered to provide care for up to 3 children who may have social or emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, 3 children were living at the home. All 3 children spoke to the inspectors.

The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2024.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 April 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
--	------

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
---	---------------------------------

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

Date of last inspection: 23 April 2025

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
23/04/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
13/08/2024	Full	Good
29/11/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/01/2023	Full	Good

Summary of findings

Children are encouraged to learn, engage in activities and have positive experiences that help them feel safe and settled.

The home environment is generally well maintained. However, there are some areas that require attention.

There is a stable staff team that knows the children well. Risks are well managed and incidents significantly reduced. When incidents occur, staff respond quickly and the manager completes a detailed evaluation. However, notifications to the regulator have been delayed.

The manager is child centred. She takes decisive action in response to allegations, but some managerial tasks have not been completed promptly.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children say they are happy in their home. They like the staff and have trusted and secure relationships with them. One child said, 'This is the best home I've ever lived in.'

One child recently moved into the home. The move was well planned and at the child's pace. Careful consideration was given to the impact on the children already living in the home.

Children make progress in education. One child was not attending school prior to moving in the home. Staff worked closely with education professionals to find the right provision for the child. The child now attends school regularly with staff providing additional creative learning experiences.

Children are prepared for their futures. They are supported to develop their independence skills ready for later life. Staff have supported one child to secure an apprenticeship, which contributes to the child's future plans.

Staff engage children in a wide range of positive activities such as golf, fishing and bowling based on children's wishes. Staff consistently encourage children to try new activities and visit new places.

Children are in good health. They have access to private healthcare and staff support them to access community services to support their health, such as dentist and smoking cessation services.

Children are able to spend time with the people who are important to them. Staff work proactively and positively with professionals and families to ensure that their visits are meaningful and safe. Staff advocate for increasing the amount of time the children spend with the people who are important to them

When one child experienced a bereavement, staff supported them to remember their loved one in ways that are personal to them.

Most areas of the home are well decorated, and the home is personalised throughout with photos of the children. Some children's bedrooms are not maintained to a high standard and require some cleaning and maintenance tasks to be completed. Additionally, the manager has not ensured that the children do not have access to the roof spaces and that locks on communal bathrooms are easily accessible in an emergency.

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

Children benefit from a nurturing and structured environment where positive behaviour is promoted. Staff consistently promote and reward positive behaviour with treats such as visiting local restaurants and chosen activities.

All staff are aware of how best to support the children to manage their feelings and emotions in a safe way. This has helped to reduce incidents in the home.

Episodes of children going missing from home have significantly reduced. Staff follow clear processes and provide a well-coordinated response to locate children. Staff conduct nationwide searches and travel across the country to return children home. When children return, staff welcome them back warmly.

Children are kept safe by staff who know them well. The manager gives clear direction to staff to ensure that they understand the risks for each child. Children have individualised risk assessments, which are reviewed regularly to reflect any changes or progress.

Staff are supported by the clinical team to better understand the children's experiences. This enables staff to implement agreed strategies to help to keep the children safe.

Staff have a good understanding of the risks that using the internet may pose for children and have introduced processes to address this. They work closely with family members and professionals to resolve any issues.

Staff are recruited safely so only suitable people work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The manager is child centred and has high ambitions for each of the children. However, she has not delegated caring tasks to staff effectively. This has impacted on her ability to complete some managerial tasks and notifications to the regulator are not always submitted in a timely manner.

The manager has built positive working relationships with professionals and families. The manager advocates and challenges other professionals when required, to achieve the best outcomes for children.

A stable and suitably qualified staff team is in place and is able to meet the needs of the children effectively. Staff feel supported by the manager and are supported to develop their professional practice through regular supervision, training and learning opportunities. The manager appropriately challenges staff practice through supervision sessions. However, supervision recording does not fully capture these conversations and lacks sufficient detail to evidence the level of challenge provided.

Allegations are rare and are managed in line with clear processes. The manager takes decisive action to ensure the immediate safety of the children. However, follow-up disciplinary action is not always completed in a timely manner. The manager is not consistently clear about the processes for seeking external advice.

The manager has completed a quality of care review. However, this does not include a clear plan for the home's development. This is a missed opportunity to make improvements and to understand the impact that the care being provided is having on children.

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 leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(f)(h)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that records are detailed and updated in a timely manner. Additionally, the registered manager must ensure that when staff do not follow processes and procedures they act in accordance with the provider's disciplinary policies. Furthermore, the registered manager must ensure that they complete quality of care reviews in line with regulation.	7 May 2026

The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children’s home’s overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children’s needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably; and ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(vii)(c)(i)(ii)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that the home is clean and well maintained throughout. Additionally, the registered manager must ensure that children cannot access roof spaces and that locks on all bathrooms for children’s use are accessible in an emergency.	7 May 2026
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there. there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(c)(e)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that notifications to the regulator are made in a timely manner.	7 May 2026

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: SC394478

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Cornerstone Children's Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: Centenary House, Centenary Way, Salford M50 1RF

Responsible individual: Steven Greenall

Registered manager: Jacqueline Ewbank

Inspectors

Caroline Bates, Social Care Inspector
Eve Ostridge, 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.

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, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at 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
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2026