

SC411046

Registered provider: Lifetime Opportunities Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private provider operates this home. It provides care for up to 4 disabled children.

There were 2 children living at the home at the time of this inspection. The inspector spent time with both children during the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in February 2024.

This manager also manages another setting within the organisation.

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 January 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 30 September 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:

This home was judged inadequate at a full inspection in September 2025. Compliance notices were issued under section 22A of the Care Standards Act 2000. These were in relation to Regulation 6 (the quality and purpose of care standard), Regulation 12 (the protection of children standard) and Regulation 13 (the leadership and management standard).

A monitoring visit was completed on 28 November 2025. At this visit, leaders and managers had taken sufficient action to meet the compliance notices issued under Regulations 6, 12 and 13. A requirement remained in place in relation to Regulation 13. This is no longer subject to a compliance notice.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/09/2025	Full	Inadequate
04/03/2025	Full	Good
20/03/2024	Full	Good
23/02/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

Since the last inspection, 2 children have remained living at the home. One local authority moved a child from the home following the inadequate judgement made at the last full inspection. As a result, the child experienced disruption and change that was not in line with their care plan.

Children continue to be cared for by staff who work across all three of the provider's homes. This reduces the opportunity for children to build relationships with staff and experience consistent care.

More purposeful one-to-one time is now spent with children. There has been an improved focus on developing children's communication. The children, who do not use words to communicate, have more opportunities to make choices about their day-to-day lives, using their preferred methods of communication.

Children have access to some activities outside of the home. One child has recently started to attend a local dance class. Children's access to activities in the community continues to be limited due to the skills and confidence of some staff to care for them outside of the home. This impacts on children's ability to try new experiences and develop new interests. Recently, outside lighting has been installed in the large garden, which increases children's access to the garden throughout the year.

Children's health needs are understood well by staff. One child with complex physical health needs receives highly personalised care. Children's health plans are detailed and support staff to understand children's health needs. For the most part, children's plans are followed, and this helps them to remain in good health.

For one child, who is a wheelchair user, leaders and managers have not followed recommendations set out in the child's education, health and care plan to provide the child with planned time out of their wheelchair. Although the child is able to do this at school, leaders and managers are not proactive in looking at ways that this can be facilitated for the child outside of the school environment.

Children's education needs are met. Both children are in full-time education, and there is effective communication between children's schools and staff at the home. School and home staff work together to implement a consistent approach to caring for the children and encouraging their communication and decision-making.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Children's assessments and plans are written by the registered manager and are detailed. They provide staff with a clear understanding of children's needs and how they should care for them in order to keep them safe. Assessments and plans are updated after significant incidents and are discussed with the staff team.

Some local authority plans and documents are not present on children's files. This was raised at the last inspection and has not been effectively addressed. As a result, staff do not have access to all the information they need from the child's local authority to inform their care of children.

Children are cared for in the least restrictive way, taking into consideration their individual needs. Children are not routinely held by staff in response to their behaviours.

The home provides children with a safe environment to live in.

There have been a small number of errors in respect of recording of children's medication. These have not resulted in children being administered the wrong medication and have not impacted on children. Audits of these records have quickly identified these recording errors. There is no record of how this issue has been addressed with the staff involved or with the wider staff team. It is therefore unclear what additional support or training staff have received to reduce the likelihood of this reoccurring.

When concerns are raised about the conduct of staff, leaders and managers act swiftly to safeguard children. Information is shared with local authorities and other relevant agencies. Ofsted are informed of these incidents, and this ensures regulatory oversight of practice at the home.

Since the last inspection, there has been a renewed focus on ensuring that staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities. Staff are able to describe the process of raising concerns about or on behalf of children within the organisation and externally. This strengthens the safeguards in place for children.

Staff new to the home are subject to safer recruitment processes, including overseas checks when this is appropriate. This ensures that decision-making about staff coming to work at the home is based on all available information in order to keep children safe.

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

Leaders and managers have begun to address the concerns raised about practice that were identified at the last full inspection. The registered manager is supported by another skilled and experienced registered manager from the organisation. This provides additional oversight of the home and the quality of care children experience.

The current model of practice in the organisation means that staff are working across all three of the provider's homes. This does not provide consistency of care for children. This was raised at the last inspection and has not been sufficiently addressed.

Staff say they are now receiving regular supervision of their practice. Staff do not receive their own copy of their supervision records. These are held by the registered manager. During this inspection, the registered manager was absent from the home. As a result, the majority of supervision records requested were not available to the inspector.

The supervision records seen demonstrate that supervision meetings have a child-centred focus and are used to build staff knowledge and understanding. However, supervision meetings are brief. The duration of meetings does not provide sufficient one-to-one time with staff to fully explore their role and reflect on the progress and experience of children.

Staff receive the training required to meet the individual needs of the children in their care. Some staff have not completed the formal qualifications required for their role within statutory timescales. The registered manager has not been proactive in ensuring that staff achieve these qualifications in a timely manner. Plans are now in place to address this and ensure that staff understand their responsibility under regulation to gain these qualifications.

Leaders and managers have positive working relationships with the placing authorities for the children currently living at the home. There is regular and effective communication between managers and children's social workers. This helps to ensure that the care children receive is contributing to their longer-term care plans.

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; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(e)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that— children have a consistent staff team caring for them; staff have the skills to take children on activities in the community; staff complete their required qualifications within the expected timescales. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 March 2026
The registered person must ensure that all employees—	31 March 2026

undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that staff have supervision that is of sufficient quality and duration to support the development of effective child-focussed practice and that staff receive a copy of their supervision records. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. Case records must be kept— in cases not falling within sub-paragraph (a), for 75 years from the child's date of birth; securely in the children's home during the period when the child to whom the case records relate is accommodated there; and in a secure place after the child has ceased to be accommodated in the home. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(b)(c)(d)) The registered person must ensure that all children's files contain, as a minimum, those documents listed in Schedule 3 and all other relevant documents. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	31 March 2026

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that children's health needs, as detailed in their education, health and care plans are followed. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.15).

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: SC411046

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lifetime Opportunities Ltd

Registered provider address: Windsor House, Bayshill Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL50 3AT

Responsible individual: Shona Wands Alderson

Registered manager: Karen Dobson

Inspector

Dawn Parton, Social Care Inspector

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