

SC412687

Registered provider: Social Care Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately run and provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2025.

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 October 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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Date of last inspection: 31 July 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/07/24	Full	good
30/10/23	Full	good
14/03/23	Full	good
17/08/21	Full	good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The children spoke with the inspector during the visit.

Staff provide children with individualised care and support, enabling them to make measurable progress from their initial starting points. Feedback from the children highlights their positive experiences with staff, with one child saying, 'I like living here; all the staff are great. They give me lots of encouragement and listen to how I feel and what I want for my future.' This reflects the nurturing relationship between staff and children, which fosters a strong sense of safety, trust and emotional security.

The manager ensures that all children's needs are carefully considered when new children move into the home. Before children move in, they are provided with clear information about the home, and whenever possible, they are encouraged to visit. Their wishes and views are listened to, promoting an immediate sense of value and inclusion from the start of their placement.

Staff support children's education, enabling them to make positive progress in both attendance and attainment relative to their starting points. For those who have previously disengaged from education, staff provide encouragement and support, including access to alternative educational provisions. This is further enhanced through structured educational activities delivered in the home, ensuring ongoing learning and development in a supportive environment.

All children are registered with healthcare professionals, and staff encourage them to attend their appointments. Where additional specialist healthcare support is required, the manager ensures that this is requested and followed up. This helps ensure that children's physical and emotional healthcare needs are met.

Staff regularly talk to children about various social issues they are experiencing. They ask questions to try to understand children's decisions and experiences. Staff provide children with the information they need to make more positive life choices.

Children enjoy a range of activities. Staff get to know each child's individual interests so they can find things they will enjoy. Photos, records and mementos are used to document children's experiences, which they can take with them when they move on from the home.

Family time is supported in line with plans. This helps children maintain positive links with family members and friends who are important to them.

The home is comfortable, well furnished, and, overall, well maintained. However, the rear courtyard is showing signs of wear and tear, which does not make it a relaxing space for children to use. All children have their own bedroom, which they are

encouraged to personalise to reflect their individual styles and interests. The bedrooms are furnished comfortably; however, they do not have individual lockable cabinets for children to secure personal items.

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

Staff develop positive and trusting relationships with children, professionals and individuals who are important to children. These relationships enable staff to gain a comprehensive understanding of each child's risks, needs and vulnerabilities. This directly informs the development of individualised risk management plans. These plans enable a personalised approach to safeguarding, tailored to the unique circumstances of each child.

All staff have appropriate training in behaviour management techniques. On occasions when children have required physical intervention to keep them safe from harm, staff have followed individual behaviour management plans, ensuring that physical restraint is only used as a last resort. After any such incident, staff talk with children, helping them make sense of what occurred. This reflective approach ensures that trust is maintained and that the relationships between staff and children remain secure and supportive.

When children go missing from the home, staff respond swiftly and effectively, taking all necessary steps to locate them and ensure their safe return. Staff also seek to understand the underlying reasons for a child going missing and ensure that they are offered the opportunity to speak with an independent advocate or person. This helps address any concerns and strengthens future safeguarding strategies.

Staff have a clear understanding of how past experiences, trauma and attachment difficulties can influence children's behaviour. They are skilled in using de-escalation techniques and in providing consistent, nurturing responses. This helps children feel safe, understood and supported.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced in residential childcare, having previously served as deputy manager before becoming the registered manager. She provides strong and consistent leadership, underpinned by high aspirations for all children and a strong commitment to child-centred practice. She is supported by a deputy manager who shares the same ethos, which is clearly reflected across the staff team.

Leaders and managers maintain effective oversight of care practices and are proactive in identifying areas for improvement. Staff receive regular guidance and supervision, and they report feeling well supported in their roles.

While most recording on children's files is appropriate, some records lack clarity, and this could affect the care provided. The manager has identified this as an ongoing training and development area for staff.

There have been minimal changes in the staff team, promoting continuity of care for the children. The team is encouraged to review relevant research and guidance. This is being embedded into daily practice to improve the quality of care.

The manager has developed strong multi-agency relationships, ensuring effective collaboration with external professionals. A social worker said, 'Communication is good. This information helps me to understand [name of child]'s needs and make the best plans for them.'

Staff regularly undertake training that is relevant to the specific needs of the children, which further enhances their ability to provide responsive and informed support. The manager has taken action to address the requirements raised at the last inspection.

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— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)) In particular, staff must have appropriate training in recording skills to ensure that children's records are consistent and clear.	12 December 2025
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 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)(c)(i))	12 December 2025

In particular, leaders and managers must ensure that all areas of the home are suitably maintained. This specifically relates to ensuring that the back courtyard is maintained and suitable for children to use.	
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Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that children are provided with appropriate furniture, such as a lockable cabinet or drawers, to secure personal items, including any personal information. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.19)

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: SC412687

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Social Care Services Limited

Registered provider address: Social Care Services Group, 31 Shaw Road,
Stockport SK4 4AG

Responsible individual: Rebecca Doherty

Registered manager: Jessica Knowles-Barnes

Inspector

Sarah Oldham, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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