

SC441410

Registered provider: Inspire Children's Services Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and provides care for up to 2 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, two children were living at the home. Both children were spoken to as part of this inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2025.

Inspection date: 17 March 2026

Date of last inspection: 7 October 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

Since the last inspection, one child has moved on from the home, and one child has moved in. For the child who moved out, their move was planned and in line with their wishes and feelings. Staff supported the child to visit new placements and have a choice in a planned move to semi-independence.

The manager speaks to children before they leave the home to listen to their experiences of living in the home and what has gone well and what could be improved.

The child who recently moved into the home is the sibling of the child already living there. Staff had an established relationship with the child prior to the move, which contributed to a positive experience for both siblings. The transition was planned, and the child was given the opportunity to visit beforehand, helping to ease the move. However, the transition risk assessment did not include all known behaviours, limiting the effectiveness of planning and the clarity of guidance available to staff.

Children speak positively about living in the home and have strong relationships with the staff team and the manager. Staff promote children's engagement in the community and provide fun activities. Children attend scouts and youth clubs, as well as activities, such as swimming.

Staff provide individualised care to children. Children's care plans are thorough and highly personalised. All children access formal education. When there are gaps in children's attendance, staff ensure that children are provided structured alternative learning. However, staff are not always proactive in providing consistent support for children developing independence skills and the recording of this work is of variable quality.

Safeguarding incidents for children living in the home are rare. There have been no incidents of children going missing from home, no police call-outs, and no use of physical intervention. Staff are aware of the plans in place to keep children safe, and when incidents do occur, they are quickly resolved.

Staff work directly with children to help them understand and reduce potential risks. However, the risk assessments in place to support staff in safeguarding children use vague language and do not include all strategies required to keep children safe, which reduces their effectiveness as a guiding tool.

There is a registered manager in post and a stable staff team. Safer recruitment checks have been followed, and new staff speak positively of their induction into the home. Staff have regular supervision and say that they feel supported. Appraisals for staff take place annually.

The manager and staff team know the children well. They use regular team meetings as an opportunity for group reflection on children's experiences and their support needs.

The manager has effective tools in place to monitor and review the day-to-day care of the children. This includes oversight of all incidents. However, not all consequences implemented to support positive behaviour for children have been recorded. This limits accountability of practice and the ability to monitor and review the effectiveness of the measures implemented.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/10/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/06/2024	Full	Good
28/11/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/06/2023	Full	Inadequate

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12(1)(2)(a)(i)(v)(b)(e)). In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff are proactive in seeking medical attention for children. And that children's risk assessments include all known risks and the strategies identified to support staff in safeguarding children. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	12 May 2026
The registered person must ensure that—	12 May 2026

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 name of the child;

details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure;

the date, time and location of the use of the measure;

a description of the measure and its duration;

details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;

the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used;

the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure.

(Regulation 35(3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vii)).

In particular, the registered person must ensure that consequences implemented for children are recorded and the effectiveness of the measure monitored and reviewed.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff are consistent and proactive in providing support in developing independence skills for children moving on from the home ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 17, paragraph 3.27).

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC441410

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Inspire Childrens Services Limited

Registered provider address: Inspire Childrens Services, Unit 3, Craig Court,
Standish Street, St. Helens, Merseyside WA10 1GJ

Responsible individual: Michael Bradshaw

Registered manager: Victoria Dixon

Inspector

Hayley Smith, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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