

SC454484

Registered provider: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a local authority. It provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the inspection three children were living at the home and one child was spoken with.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2025.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 October 2025

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

How well children and young people are helped and protected requires improvement to be 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: 18 June 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/06/2024	Full	Good
11/03/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/07/2022	Full	Inadequate
02/11/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children's health needs are prioritised by staff. Children are supported to engage in medical appointments. When children are nervous, staff work with them to reassure them and help them to develop the confidence to attend.

Children are encouraged to understand and learn about their own identities. Detailed work is carried out with children regarding gender and sexuality. This has allowed children to develop self-awareness, understanding and confidence.

Staff have introduced activity journals, memory boards and a newsletter. These support the children to understand their time at the home.

All children have access to education. Staff recognise the importance for children to have a permanent education provision. Staff have used the knowledge and guidance of relevant external agencies to enable children to access the correct education provisions. Staff carry out work with the children to encourage them to attend education and share the importance of education for the children's futures.

Children are learning independence skills. Their achievements are celebrated with certificates and progress folders. When children struggle to understand the expectations of them, the staff adapt their approach and motivate the children in this process successfully.

Children have very positive relationships with staff. Children wanted to provide staff with training on the understanding of menstrual cycles and have created training packs that they have delivered to staff in staff meetings. The children are also encouraged to arrange art exhibitions, which their family members and professionals are invited to attend.

Children's views and wishes are captured in daily recordings. Staff make a list of these views and wishes to help inform staff discussions at team meetings. However, the children do not have their own meetings, and they are not receiving feedback or an explanation about whether staff can or cannot meet their requests.

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

There have been a high number of missing-from-home incidents for children. Recording by staff is poor, making it difficult to understand the actions taken to find the child and help them to return home safely. The staff's recording does not show the care and support offered to the children on their return home to ensure their safety and well-being.

Significant incident notifications are not always completed by the provider and shared with Ofsted in a timely manner. Children do not receive supportive conversations following incidents. The staff do not gain the children's thoughts and feelings to enable them to implement and adapt plans and their approaches when working with the children.

Children know how to make a complaint. When they do, the manager keeps them updated regarding the progress of the complaint. The children receive formal feedback of the outcome. However, when children are included in the complaint, work is not completed with the child to support them to understand the concerns that have arisen. The children are not involved in developing support plans to reduce these concerns. Additional restrictions are implemented by the staff, with the children not understanding the reasoning for this.

The manager has moved away from using consequences in response to children's behaviours and is using a more restorative approach. This was implemented following the manager's review of a consequence that was deemed unfair. As a result, a decision was made to reimburse the children. Work was completed with staff to reflect on this decision-making, and children are now supported with incentives.

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

The manager has had a challenging start to their role, with many competing demands and challenges. They have highlighted areas for development in the home and, together with leaders, have plans to address these areas. This includes the introduction of champion roles for the staff team, where these areas can be a focus. However, these have not yet effected any change and are still in the early stages of implementation.

Staff have carried out the organisation's mandatory training. There are clear training plans for new starters. The fire safety training is not suitable and has not been carried out by a number of staff. Leaders and managers have not ensured the required level of training to maintain the children and staff's safety.

Staff speak positively about the children and working in the home. They have identified changes to improve the home that are being introduced by managers and leaders.

Team meetings take place regularly and have detailed agendas. The minutes are clear, which supports the staff, including those who were unable to attend, to understand the discussions. Staff supervision sessions are detailed, reflective and supportive of both the work and personal lives of the staff team. They are used to identify strengths and future areas of focus for the staff. Development plans are used with staff to encourage improvements in practice. This remains a significant focus for leaders and managers.

The manager's knowledge and understanding of the needs of the children is strong. Children receive their child-friendly care plans each month when they are updated. These are shared by the manager with the children in a way they request, either paper or via emails.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c)) In particular, ensure that all incidents are recorded with clear details of actions taken by staff to ensure the safety of children.	1 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 staff— protect and promote each child's welfare. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(ii)) In particular, staff should check on the well-being of children when they return from being missing from home.	1 December 2025
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who—	1 December 2025

engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child. (Regulation 7 (1)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)) In particular, staff should respond to the wishes of children, informing them of the actions taken or reasons they cannot be met. Staff should also ensure that children are spoken to and their views obtained following significant incidents.	
After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must— make arrangements for persons working at the home to receive suitable training in fire prevention. (Regulation 25 (1)(c))	1 December 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure they have a system in place so that all serious events are notified to Ofsted within 24 hours. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.13)

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: SC454484

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Westgate Plaza One, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2RD

Responsible individual: Lisa Vaux

Registered manager: Emma Missa

Inspector

Rachel Moore, Social Care Inspector

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