

SC454707

Registered provider: Kids

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a charity and offers short-break care for up to seven children who experience social and emotional difficulties and have physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities.

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

The registered manager was not present during this inspection.

Inspection dates: 21 and 22 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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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 8 October 2024

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
08/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/07/2024	Full	Inadequate
05/12/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
31/01/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, staff have strengthened their relationships with parents, schools and the local authority. As a result, staff have an improved understanding of children's needs, behaviours and communication preferences. They have regular meetings with parents to discuss children's progress, targets and to obtain their views and feedback on children's stays.

Children and staff have positive relationships because staff are nurturing and attentive. Children are happy, relaxed and comfortable in the presence of staff. They enjoy participating in activities such as arts and crafts, discos in the sensory room, and playing on the swings. Staff thoughtfully prepare for children's visits by considering their sensory needs and staffing ratios, ensuring that they have a smooth transition into the home.

Staff use various alternative communication methods, such as communication boards and sign language, to capture children's views. Staff encourage children's speech by asking them questions and reading them books. Staff are conscious that some children communicate with their body language, and they have a good understanding of their nonverbal cues. Staff respond to children in a timely manner, showing them that they have been heard.

Staff help children make progress in accordance with their plans. For example, staff encourage one child to go out for walks, as this is important for his physical development. They assist another child in chopping food, which encourages them to eat safely. Staff support children in learning independence skills, such as washing up dishes and sweeping the floor.

Leaders and staff have reflective conversations about whether they can meet the needs of children who attend the home. They acknowledge that some children require different support, and they share their views with the local authority. They also support older children in transitioning to adult services by sharing information with staff at their new homes and inviting them to visit children during their short breaks.

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

The staff have participated in extensive training and received support to critically reflect on their decision-making and practice. They demonstrate an improved understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities towards children, and they know how to escalate concerns internally and externally to the local authority. Staff also have an improved understanding of restraint and how to record it appropriately.

There have been 11 incidents of restraint since the last full inspection. When restraint has been used, it has been necessary and proportionate. As staff have an improved ability to communicate with children, incidents are short-lived. Additionally, staff work

collaboratively during incidents, using appropriate strategies, such as distraction and redirection, helping children to settle.

On the rare occasions that children have physical altercations with each other, staff respond swiftly. They calmly intervene and have individual chats with children, reiterating boundaries while taking account of their comprehension levels. Following incidents, staff contact parents to make them aware of any new and unusual behaviours. This allows parents to share their views and agree on strategies with staff.

Leaders respond appropriately when children make allegations against staff; they consult the local authority designated officer and follow guidance. Leaders have increased their oversight of complaints and communicate directly with parents, offering them reassurance and keeping them updated with outcomes. There have been no complaints since March 2025.

Currently, leaders do not verify the reasons why new staff have left their previous employment with vulnerable adults or children as required by the regulations.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders have been on an improvement journey since the last full inspection in October 2024. They have experienced unexpected challenges. However, they have persevered and revised plans to deliver good-quality care to children.

The registered manager has been absent since April 2025. Leaders have ensured that interim management arrangements are suitable and robust. Leaders have worked collaboratively with the local authority to devise a priority system that takes account of children's needs and the home's capacity. Leaders have shown willingness to challenge the local authority if they do not agree with its suggestions.

At times, leaders have been required to make difficult decisions, such as cancelling short breaks and closing the home. However, they have acted in the children's best interests. They are committed to ensuring that children have positive visits and are supported in making progress and staying safe. Leaders have communicated closure messages to parents; however, some parents would have liked more information relating to timescales.

Leaders have supported staff in developing their knowledge, skills and practice through training and supervision and by sharing feedback with them. They have also upskilled senior staff by allocating them specialised roles that recognise their strengths. Staff are happier and confident because they feel heard and valued by leaders. When leaders identify shortfalls in practice, they talk with staff about the changes they expect to see moving forward.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that references are verbally verified to determine whether candidates have been honest about their previous experiences working with children and vulnerable adults. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

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: SC454707

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Kids

Registered provider address: 249 Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B72 1EA

Responsible individual: Lee Furniss

Registered manager: Sharon Hudd

Inspector

Tara Webb, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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