

SC463852

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private organisation. It provides care for up to 4 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, 4 children were living at the home.

Inspection date: 17 March 2026

Date of last inspection: 13 October 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

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

The inspector has 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

No serious or widespread concerns were identified in relation to the care or protection of children during this assurance inspection. The responsible individual and the supporting manager led the inspection.

No children have moved out of the home since the previous inspection. Two children were present and both spoke with the inspector. They reported that they feel safe and enjoy living in the home. Positive and meaningful relationships with staff contribute to them feeling respected and valued. One child praised the staff for their effective support, which has contributed to a reduction in missing-from-home incidents.

The registered manager is a strong advocate for children. They confidently challenge external agencies to enhance children's experiences. For example, the manager repeatedly communicated a child's wishes relating to family time and offered practical solutions, including staff support, to ensure this could happen safely. As a result, the child's wishes were upheld, and the number of incidents reduced.

Incident reporting has improved and records are now completed more efficiently. Records demonstrate management oversight that identifies areas for development. Staff debriefs show reflective discussions that support improved practice and ongoing professional development. Some incidents have been appropriately recorded within risk assessments so that children's plans remain up to date. However, this is not yet consistent practice across the home.

Safety planning for emerging risks is not always effective. Managers have not implemented adequate strategies in response to incidents involving weapons. This limits staff's ability to maintain effective safeguarding practice. For example, one child had access to an air gun, but this was not reflected within their support plan. This omission affects staff decision-making and could compromise children's safety.

Team meetings take place most months and include detailed discussion of children's needs. Although there was some delay in addressing actions identified at the full inspection, the registered manager has recently challenged unresolved concerns within a staff meeting.

Records do not demonstrate that the registered manager receives meaningful supervision. This results in missed opportunities for reflective discussion and action planning to address shortfalls.

Managers have some understanding of the home's strengths and areas requiring improvement. While some changes have been introduced, these are not yet fully embedded. Managers and leaders complete frequent audits; however, these have not identified the remaining shortfalls. A supporting manager has now been appointed to help drive improvement within the home.

The regulator has been notified of significant incidents without delay, ensuring timely oversight of safeguarding practice. One notification was delayed while the registered manager was on leave, but a new system has since been implemented to prevent recurrence.

One requirement from the previous inspection has been met. Two requirements remain unmet and have been repeated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/10/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/11/2024	Full	Outstanding
07/02/2024	Full	Outstanding
14/02/2023	Full	Good

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; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi) and (vii)) This specifically relates to staff recording and reporting to safeguarding agencies when children are involved in safeguarding incidents, for example being found in possession of illegal substances or weapons. Furthermore that this information is used to update risk assessments	30 April 2026

which informs staff how to care for the child and keep them safe.	
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; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home.(Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(f) and (h)) This specifically relates to the registered manager ensuring that staff understand and adhere to safeguarding procedures; that monitoring systems are effective and used to identify and address shortfalls within the home. In addition managers should receive regular and meaningful supervision.	30 April 2026

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that they notify Ofsted if there is an incident relating to the welfare of a child living in the home which the registered person considers to be serious. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63 paragraph 14.10)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC463852

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Horizon Care and Education Group Limited

Registered provider address: C/O DWF Company Secretarial Services Limited, 1
Scott Place 2 Hardman Street, Manchester M3 3AA

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Kelly Shannon

Inspector

Latoya Morgan, Social Care Inspector

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