

SC473375

Registered provider: Continuum Support - Care Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company. It provides care for up to 2 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, 2 children were living in the home. The children spoke with the inspector.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2023.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 June 2026

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: 30 September 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/09/2025	Full	Good
16/04/2024	Full	Good
18/07/2023	Full	Good
01/11/2022	Full	Good

Summary of findings

Children receive positive and stable care. Planned transitions into the home help children to settle in and make progress in their health and education. Children develop trusting relationships with staff who understand their needs well.

Staff provide individualised care that is informed by children's plans. Effective partnership working helps children to remain safe and access the support they need.

Children are encouraged to spend time with people who are important to them, which promotes their wellbeing and sense of identity.

The manager is experienced and is supported by a committed staff team. However, leaders need to address weaknesses in recording, a failure to notify Ofsted of a serious incident, shortfalls in safer recruitment records and aspects of the home's maintenance.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out of the home, and one child has moved in. Careful planning and effective matching arrangements have helped to ensure that children's needs can be met and that stability in the home is maintained for children.

Staff understand the children's health needs well. They work effectively with healthcare professionals to ensure that children can access specialist services when needed. Children are registered with appropriate healthcare services and attend appointments that support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Education is valued in the home. Staff work effectively with education professionals to encourage children's engagement and support positive outcomes. Children participate in a range of activities that reflect their interests and help to build confidence and self-esteem.

Children are encouraged to spend time with family members and other people who are important to them. These arrangements are planned carefully and help children to maintain meaningful relationships and social connections.

The home provides a welcoming environment for children. Bedrooms are personalised and reflect children's interests and preferences. However, some areas of the home require attention, including repairs to fencing, communal French doors and the main bathroom.

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

Children are kept safe by staff who are knowledgeable about their current needs and vulnerabilities. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and know how to escalate concerns, including with external safeguarding partners.

Staff manage children's free time appropriately and carry out regular welfare checks. When risks emerge, staff respond quickly, and free time is reviewed promptly to keep children safe.

Missing-from-home incidents are managed well. Staff follow missing-from-home procedures and actively search for children. Staff work effectively with partner agencies to support children to return home safely. Return home interviews and key-work sessions help children to reflect on incidents and promote safer decision-making when in the community.

Staff take appropriate action to safeguard children following incidents of self-harm. However, records relating to one incident lacked sufficient detail and did not clearly evidence actions taken, including a room search and welfare checks. This limits management oversight and scrutiny of practice.

Following a serious incident, management failed to notify Ofsted in line with regulatory requirements. This prevents independent oversight and reduces opportunities for external scrutiny of safeguarding practice in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced in residential childcare and has the relevant qualification. They are supported by a committed staff team that provides consistent care and stability for children. The manager works effectively with partner agencies to manage risks and support placement stability for one child.

Staff receive regular supervision, which supports reflective practice and ongoing development. Staff say they feel supported by managers, which helps them to meet the child's needs effectively. Team meetings are held frequently and provide staff with opportunities for discussion and reflection.

Staff have access to a wide range of training that equips them with the skills needed to meet children's needs. The manager ensures that training is reviewed and updated in response to emerging needs.

Records do not consistently reflect children's wishes and feelings. Children's preferred names are not always used throughout documentation. This fails to fully recognise children's identities and individual preferences.

Safer recruitment practices are in place. However, detailed employment histories and specific start and end dates are not clearly recorded, and potential gaps in employment have not always been explored.

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 notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— - a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; - an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; - there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; - a child protection enquiry involving a child— - is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or - there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e)) The registered person must ensure that significant incidents are reported to Ofsted in a timely manner.	2 July 2026
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— - demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on—	2 July 2026

use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(g)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff keep accurate, up-to-date and child-focused records. Monitoring systems should be sufficiently robust to identify and address recording shortfalls.	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children's home; or The requirements are that— the individual is of integrity and good character; the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform; the individual is mentally and physically fit for the purposes of the work that the individual is to perform; and full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a) (3)(a)(b)(c)(d)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that robust recruitment procedures are followed. Application forms must include the precise start and end dates for each period of employment to ensure that any gaps in employment histories for new members of staff are identified.	2 July 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home is maintained to a high standard, that any damage is repaired promptly and that the environment remains well presented to meet children's needs. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that children's records consistently reflect their preferred names, unless there is a clear and recorded reason not to do so, to ensure that their views, wishes, feelings and identities are recognised. ('Guide to the

Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.10)

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: SC473375

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Continuum Support - Care Services Limited

Registered provider address: Sinclair Accounting Co Ltd, 300 St Marys Road,
Garston, Liverpool L19 0NQ

Responsible individual: Peter Mahon

Registered manager: Carl Keating

Inspector

Sonja Vega, Social Care Inspector

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