

2833177

Registered provider: Yellowbird Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately run and provides care for up to 3 children who have been through childhood trauma and experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2025 and is suitably qualified.

This was the home's first inspection since it was registered with Ofsted in October 2025.

At the time of the inspection, 3 children were living in the home. All were seen and spoken to.

Inspection dates: 27 and 28 May 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: not previously inspected

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Summary of findings

Children are making progress and are kept safe by an experienced staff team who are proactive and nurturing. Staff ensure that children are not impacted negatively by other children who may be struggling to settle into the home.

There is good multi-agency working. Leaders have involved partner agencies at an early stage so that all can proactively support children, particularly around keeping children safe.

Staff promote education and learning well. Staff support children to attend and become aspirational about their futures.

Leaders are reflective and continually review and evaluate the quality of care, identifying areas in need of improvement so that children get the best possible care.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the home was registered with Ofsted, 3 children have moved into the home and no children have left.

The manager demonstrates a strong understanding of children's individual needs and has carefully considered these and children's views prior to any moves to the home. Prior to moving into the home, children have had opportunities to visit and, where possible, choose their preferred bedroom. Children are supported to personalise their bedrooms, which promotes a sense of belonging.

Children are making progress from their starting points. One child has fully engaged with the opportunities and support provided by staff. As a result, the child is aspirational about their future.

Staff understand the importance of education. They take practical steps to overcome barriers. For example, for a child with a lengthy journey to school, staff ensure that they are well organised and prepared each day, including providing breakfast to eat on the journey. Consequently, the child has excellent attendance and is preparing for their exams.

For children who are reluctant to attend education, staff are persistent and think creatively to encourage children to engage with their learning. They talk to children about the barriers to learning and liaise effectively with education professionals to develop individual timetables. This flexible approach supports children's engagement and readiness to learn.

Children are helped by staff to access appropriate health services and are involved in decisions about their healthcare. Staff work with health professionals and respect children's views, including where alternative approaches to medication are being explored. Staff show persistence in gaining health support for children. They take creative steps to improve engagement, such as arranging for a community dentist to visit the home.

Children are helped to maintain relationships with those people who are important to them. Staff have arranged activities, such as swimming trips, for the child and their family members. This has meant that children have positive, shared experiences with their family.

Children benefit from a range of social and recreational opportunities. Staff encourage participation in activities that children enjoy, as well as introducing them to new experiences. One child is due to take part in football trials for a local football club.

Children spoke positively about living at the home. They said that they enjoy living here. Feedback from professionals is consistently positive, with many highlighting that staff go above and beyond to meet children's needs.

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

Children are kept safe by a staff team that understands and manages risks well.

When children struggle to make safe decisions and place themselves at risk, staff are proactive in identifying potential risks, including unsafe locations and individuals. Staff work collaboratively with partner agencies to share information and develop plans to reduce harm. Staff engage with the police to implement warning notices for individuals and locations that present risk.

Staff demonstrate strong professional curiosity and persistence when children go missing from the home. They actively search for children, including visiting known locations. When staff have reason to believe a child may be present at a location despite reassurances to the contrary, they return and continue their enquiries. This approach has resulted in the child being located and encouraged to return home, reducing the likelihood of them remaining in unsafe situations.

Staff maintain a positive and nurturing approach, which enables them to de-escalate incidents effectively without the need for physical intervention.

Staff support children to explore and discuss their worries and fears. This is complemented by targeted learning opportunities. For example, children have completed online resources and taken part in quizzes to increase their awareness of risks in relation to online activity, health and relationships. Staff have also worked in partnership with a local charity to deliver sessions on knife crime. One child participated in this learning, developing a better understanding of risk and how to respond in emergency situations, including the use of a bleed kit.

Safer recruitment practices are generally followed. However, oversight of agency recruitment processes is not sufficiently robust. In one instance, a referee indicated that they would not disclose safeguarding concerns. This was not fully explored by either the agency or the manager, which weakens safeguarding assurances.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

This home has an experienced and child-focused leadership team that demonstrates high expectations for themselves, staff and children.

The manager has recruited staff with relevant experience of working with vulnerable children. The impact of this experience is evident in the team's response to children's needs and the quality of support provided. The manager has taken effective steps to ensure that the needs of one child have not had an adverse impact on others living at the home.

A key strength of the home is the strong leadership and effective multi-agency working. The manager advocates well for children and ensures that partner agencies are engaged at an early stage to provide coordinated support.

Staff share a clear commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for children. They report feeling well supported by the manager and speak positively about the leadership team. Leaders are described as visible, approachable and consistently available to provide guidance and practical support.

Staff receive a comprehensive programme of training, including both online and face-to-face learning, alongside input from other professionals. Where additional learning needs are identified, the manager responds promptly to ensure that staff have the necessary knowledge and skills.

The manager considers a range of information when assessing referrals from placing authorities. However, the rationale for decision-making, particularly in relation to risks in the local area, is not always sufficiently clear or well documented.

The manager has updated the home's location risk assessment. However, recent information relating to emerging risks is not presented clearly, and the potential impact on children is not clear.

Leaders have begun to implement reflective practice to review the progress of children moving into the home. This has supported the identification of learning and informed improvements to admission processes and care planning.

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 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 if an individual is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the home in a position in which the individual may have regular contact with children, allow that individual to work at the home, if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual is of integrity and good character; 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)(b) (3)(a)(d)) This specifically relates to reference checks. The registered person must follow up with the referee if the referee has not shared or will not share any concerns regarding suitability or safeguarding concerns while the applicant was in their employment.	24 July 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should review the appropriateness and suitability of the location and premises of the home at least once a year. The review should include the identification of any risks and opportunities presented by the home's location and strategies for managing these. The information should be clear and show how this may impact on children living at the home, along with clear strategies to manage those risks. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.1)
- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children. Specifically, they should include in that assessment findings from the home's assessment of the suitability of the location of the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)

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: 2833177

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Yellowbird Homes Limited

Registered provider address: Suite 16, Enterprise House, Telford Rd, Bicester, Oxon OX26 4LD

Responsible individual: Timothy Corbin

Registered manager: Benjamin Beynon

Inspector

Debbie Bond, Social Care Inspector

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