

Children's Home Inspection Report
IN048673
23 October 2025

Information on legislation and standards underpinning inspections can be found on our website <https://www.rqia.org.uk/>

1.0 Service information

Service Type: Children's Home Provider Type: Health and Social Care Trust Located within: – Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Manager status: Not registered
Brief description of how the service operates: This home is registered as a small children's home as defined in The Minimum Standards for Children's Homes (Department of Health) (2023) . The children living in this home have been assessed as having intellectual needs/ disability and in need of medium to long term care.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 23 October 2025 between 09.30 a.m. and 16.30 p.m. The inspection was undertaken by a care inspector.

The inspection assessed progress with all areas for improvement identified during the last care inspection and to determine if the home was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

Staff had a detailed understanding of children's individual needs and positive relationships amongst staff and the children were evident. A stable, experienced, staff team supported the children. Care was individualised and child specific. Staff presented as child centred within their approach and voiced a good understanding of the children's individual needs.

An area for improvement identified at the last inspection in relation to statutory visits by field social workers was assessed as met. No new areas for improvement were identified.

The inspector concluded there was safe, effective and compassionate care delivered in the home and the home was well led by the management team.

The findings of this report will provide the manager with the necessary information to improve staff practice and children's experience.

3.0 How we inspect

RQIA's inspections form part of our ongoing assessment of the quality of services. Our reports reflect how they were performing at the time of our inspection, highlighting both good practice and any areas for improvement. It is the responsibility of the service provider to ensure compliance with legislation, standards and best practice, and to address any deficits identified during our inspections.

In preparation for this inspection, a range of information about the service was reviewed to help plan the inspection.

A range of documents were examined to determine that effective systems were in place to manage the home and deliver safe care.

RQIA inspectors seek to speak with children/ young people, their relatives/carers, visitors and staff for their opinion on the quality of care and their experience of living, visiting or working in this home.

Information was provided to children, relatives/carers, staff and other stakeholders on how they could provide feedback on the quality of care and support in this home. This included questionnaires and an electronic survey.

The findings of the inspection were discussed with the manager at the conclusion of the inspection.

4.0 What people told us about the service

The inspector spoke with young people, the manager and staff during the course of the inspection. Children, relatives/carers, visitors and staff had the opportunity to provide feedback via a questionnaire.

No feedback was received by RQIA via questionnaires or electronic survey post inspection.

Children who were less able to tell us about how they found life in the home were observed to be relaxed in their surroundings and engaged well with staff.

Discussions with staff confirmed that they felt positive about their roles, the support provided to children, and support available from the manager. Staff reported that they enjoyed working in the home and described the manager as supportive and approachable. Regular supervision was provided to staff, and an open-door policy was in place to encourage ongoing communication. Staff reported that they were encouraged to raise any concerns, they felt listened to, and that their views were respected.

Staff also highlighted the value of effective information sharing practices, such as handovers and team meetings, which promoted strong communication across the team. Staff confirmed they were encouraged and supported to attend training opportunities.

Overall, staff described a positive and collaborative culture within the home, with a shared commitment across the staff team to ensure children were well supported and actively involved in all aspects of their care.

5.0 The inspection

5.1 What has this service done to meet any areas for improvement identified at or since last inspection?

Areas for improvement from the last inspection on 6 February 2025		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Children's Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005		Validation of compliance
Area for Improvement 1 Ref: Standard 4 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that there are robust arrangements in place to guide staff in the actions to be taken should concerns regarding visits by field social workers arise. The arrangements should include clear escalating and reporting arrangements when statutory visits are not occurring for children in line with legislation, policy or guidance. Evidence should be maintained regarding actions taken to address the concern and to mitigate against any potential identified risks. Ref: 5.2.1	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: This area for improvement was met.	

5.2 Inspection findings

5.2.1 How does the service ensure young people are getting the right care at the right time?

Children's care plans and health and well-being plans demonstrated that the quality of recording was of a good standard and reflected the children's experiences of living in the home.

A comprehensive staff-training matrix confirmed that all staff maintained up to date mandatory and specialist training relevant to the children's needs. Team meetings were convened regularly, and minutes evidenced effective communication, reflective discussion and coordinated care planning.

The Looked After Children's (LAC) Nurse and other Health Professionals supported staff training to ensure staff had the right knowledge and skills to meet any specific health needs of the children.

The children's voices were consistently reflected in daily logs and life skills session records, evidencing that their views and preferences informed the delivery of their care. Children also had the opportunity to engage in Voice Of Young People In Care (VOYPIC) advocacy sessions, both within and outside of the home. This provided a forum where children had the opportunity to raise any issues, express choices in regard to activities, be involved in decision-making regarding the running of the home, and contribute to their own care planning where appropriate.

Overall, the service provided care tailored to the individual needs of the children. This approach was supported by child centred processes, which empowered children to be active participants in their own care.

5.2.2 How does the service promote and protect the health of the young people?

The service effectively promotes and protects the health and wellbeing of children. Each child had an individual health and wellbeing plan and care plan in place. Evidence was available that care documentation was regularly reviewed to ensure children's health needs were clearly identified, monitored and met.

Children received ongoing support from the Looked After Children (LAC) nurse who carried out health assessments and provided ongoing guidance to staff. All children were registered with a GP and dentist and were supported to attend to appointments.

Medicines management was well organised, with clear protocols in place for staff and accurate recordings maintained, to support safe administration of medicines.

The service had implemented the Northern Ireland Integrated Therapeutic Framework (NIFITC), which underpins a holistic approach to supporting children's physical, emotional and developmental needs. A multi-agency approach to children's care was promoted through regular Care Network Meetings, where staff, social workers and health care professionals collaborated and updated care plans accordingly.

Risk assessments clearly identified presenting risks and the strategies in place to reduce the level of risk. They were regularly reviewed to identify any factors that may affect children's health or wellbeing, ensuring appropriate safeguards were in place.

Overall, the service provided a well-coordinated and proactive approach to healthcare, ensuring that the children's physical and emotional needs were met through effective planning, professional collaboration, and consistent implementation of therapeutic and preventative practices.

5.2.3 How does the service ensure that there are robust management and governance arrangements in place?

Effective management and governance arrangements were in place which promoted a child-centred, supportive, and inclusive culture. The manager promoted a respectful and restorative practice model, encouraging positive relationships, accountability and learning from

experiences. This approach was complemented by the delivery of trauma informed care, ensuring that staff understand and respond sensitively to the impact of trauma on children's behaviour and well-being.

A stable and consistent staff team supported continuity of care. The staff team were supported by regular handovers, team meetings, and supervision sessions that promoted reflective practice and a consistent approach to supporting children. Staff were encouraged to share ideas and discuss challenges, contributing to a collaborative and open culture where professional development was valued.

The manager ensured effective oversight through regular audits, monitoring systems, and quality assurance processes. These processes help services maintain high standards, ensure compliance with regulations, and drive continuous improvement.

The staff team were committed to ensuring that children's voices were heard and influenced decisions about their care. Overall, robust governance, reflective and restorative practices, underpinned by a trauma-informed approach, created a safe nurturing environment where children and staff could be valued, respected, and supported.

6.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement identified. The inspection findings were discussed with the manager as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.



The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
James House
2-4 Cromac Avenue
Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JA

Tel 028 9536 1111
Email info@rqia.org.uk
Web www.rqia.org.uk
Twitter @RQIANews