Clare Lodge

Registered provider: Peterborough City Council
Clare Lodge Secure Children's Home, 8 Lincoln Road, Glinton, Peterborough PE6 7AW

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this secure children's home

This home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict children's liberty.

The home provides care for up to 16 girls aged between 10 and 17 who are placed by local authorities, under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

Admission of any child who is under 13 years old requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

The commissioning of health services at this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities. The inspectors only inspected the social care provision.

There were 6 children living at the home at the time of this inspection.

There is no registered manager in post.

Inspection date: 7 October 2026

Date of last inspection: 2 June 2026

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

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

Inspectors have 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

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children are positive about the care that they receive. They value the range of activities available, which include boxing, the gym and cooking. Children are supported to access the community when it is safe to do so. Staff support children to engage in activities. This has a positive impact and children's incidents have reduced.

When allegations or concerns about staff practice are received, effective actions are taken. Referrals are made to the local authority designated officer when required. Managers ensure that safeguarding measures are put in place to ensure that children are safe while concerns are investigated.

Physical intervention is used appropriately. Staff use de-escalation skills and humour to support children to feel safe, which supports staff to mitigate escalation in children's behaviour. However, the recording of these incidents is variable and does not always clearly detail what happened and how staff supported the child. During one incident, the recording of a restraint is unclear in terms of the location of the child and staff. The child was injured following the restraint, and it is not possible to determine whether the restraint was completed at a height and may have contributed to the child falling and sustaining an injury to their foot.

Learning from incidents in most cases is completed; however, there are occasions when management oversight fails to identify shortfalls. For example, following one incident management oversight has not identified several areas that are not clear in the incident form. For another incident, there are inconsistencies in the recording about a child having scratches on their hand following a restraint. Managers have explored the scratches by viewing the footage available on CCTV. However, they have not identified the inconsistencies in the recording related to this concern.

The management team and staff understand the risks to and from children. Children's individual risk assessments are clear. New summary sheets have been added that provide a quick, helpful guide for staff. Risk assessments provide staff with strategies to support children to keep safe. The management team recognises the importance of making sure that all assessments are reviewed regularly to maintain consistent practice. Children are spoken with after incidents, and their views are captured in their plans**.**

The latest quality of care review has not been completed or sent to Ofsted within the timescale. This shows that reviewing and learning to develop the home are not always prioritised.

The statement of purpose has not been kept updated. Changes in management have not been added. This means that the statement of purpose is not up to date for all professionals to understand how the home operates.

The interim manager has left and a new manager has been appointed to start. The new manager has met with the staff and has started to get to know the home to support a smooth handover. Staff said that they feel supported and receive regular training and supervision sessions.

Two of the requirements set at the last inspection have been met. The requirement under regulation 12 has been restated. The requirement under regulation 13 has only been partially met so regulation 13 has been raised again. The recommendation about education was not reviewed and will remain. The recommendation about the local safeguarding children partnership (LSCP) report will be restated as the LSCP has not published a new report since the last inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/06/2026	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/02/2026	Full	Inadequate
07/05/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
23/04/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good

What does the secure 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 the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(b)) This requirement was raised at the last inspection and has been restated.	18 December 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— 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; 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; and	18 December 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)(a)(f)(h))	
The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report"). The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed. (Regulation 45 (1) (3) (4)(a))	27 November 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the statement of purpose is kept updated and under review. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)
- The registered person should ensure that the ethos of the home supports each child to learn. Leaders should ensure that the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum is planned and taught in a way that meets the needs of the children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 29, paragraph 5.18)
- The registered person should ensure that they work with the LSCP to remind it of its duty to carry out a review of restraint practice at the home and include its review in the LSCP's annual report. ('Working Together to Safeguard Children', page 108, paragraph 41)

Secure children's home details

Unique reference number: SC033362

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider: Peterborough City Council

Registered provider address: Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Peterborough PE2 8TY

Responsible individual: Alison Bennett

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Leanne Lyon, Social Care Inspector
Thirza Smith, Social Care Inspector
Matilda Clode, Social Care Inspector

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