

2680525

Registered provider: Orchard Children Homes Ltd

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care for up to two children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager's position has been vacant since May 2024. A new manager has been recruited and has applied to become registered.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the home.

Inspection date: 9 September 2025

Date of last inspection: 29 April 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

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

Children are making progress in the home. One child is engaged in an apprenticeship that reflects their interests and is working towards independence. Another child, who had previously been out of education, is being supported well to re-engage with learning.

Conditions in the home have improved since the last inspection. The home feels more welcoming and there is clear evidence of children's presence, including pictures and artwork being displayed.

Relationships between the children have also improved. Staff have facilitated mediation and have involved children in discussions about how to strengthen their relationship. This work has had a positive impact.

Staff support children effectively to achieve greater independence. One child is making progress towards the reduction of a restrictive court order. This includes increased opportunities to spend time away from the home independently, which they are managing well.

Risk assessments are being strengthened. One child has a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment in place, while another child's assessment is currently being updated. These capture known risks, identify behaviour triggers and set out strategies to support children effectively.

Complaints are managed well. The acting manager responds promptly to any concerns raised by children and ensures they are satisfied with the outcome. This promotes children's confidence in the complaints process.

Physical interventions are also well managed. For one child, the frequency of such incidents has significantly reduced. Debriefs with the child now take place consistently, enabling reflection and learning. Recording of incidents has improved, demonstrating the acting manager's commitment to maintaining safe practice.

The newly recruited manager is enthusiastic and committed to developing the home. They have submitted their application to become registered with the regulator and have already begun to implement positive changes.

Staff report no concerns about the running of the home. Although the service has experienced a period of change, including the appointment of a new manager, there is now a sense of stability within the team.

Since the last inspection, systems to support staff have strengthened. Regular supervision is in place and training has been completed, with further training for

new staff scheduled. Team meetings are held consistently, with input from the home's clinical psychologist, providing staff with strategies to manage children's behaviours effectively.

Overall, the progress made since the last inspection has been sufficient, with leaders and managers demonstrating the capacity to sustain and build on these improvements.

Progress has been made against the previously set requirements and recommendations. One requirement has been restated and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/04/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
20/08/2024	Full	Good
27/06/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
31/01/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be 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 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. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c)) This specifically relates to ensuring that the required report is produced and sent to the regulator once every six months.	10 November 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2680525

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Orchard Children Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor, 118 Calais Road, Burton-on-Trent DE13 0UW

Responsible individual: Keren Iqbal

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Lauren Barwell, Social Care Inspector

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