

2781986

Registered provider: Acorns to Oaks Children's Care & Support Limited

Assurance 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 4 children who experience social and emotional difficulties and/or have learning disabilities.

At the time of the inspection, one child was living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2026.

Inspection date: 29 January 2026

Date of last inspection: 22 September 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.

The child is provided with a high level of loving, nurturing and consistent care. Staff have helped the child to settle into the home and form a sense of belonging and security. The quality of relationships between staff and the child are overwhelmingly positive. Staff talk about the child with warmth, love and pride.

The child is making progress in all areas of their life. They regularly attend school and are thriving in education. Staff work collaboratively with the school to ensure the best outcomes are achieved. The child is provided with additional opportunities to learn and develop outside of formal education.

The child's health and emotional well-being are actively promoted. Staff ensure that the child attends all health appointments and maintains a healthy daily routine. The manager advocated for the child to have additional reviews to ensure that the child's specific health needs are fully understood and managed appropriately.

The child's achievements are celebrated and rewarded. They have a colourful memory book full of photos of fun activities and important life events. Staff encourage positive behaviour and the child is routinely rewarded.

Appropriate and clear routines and boundaries are in place, providing a consistent and stable environment. Staff use creative ways to help the child understand and manage their feelings and behaviours.

The child lives in a large and spacious home. Their bedroom is well furnished and personalised. The home is full of sensory toys to meet the needs of the child. Communal areas are warm, comfortable and homely. However, the garden needs maintenance and repair to ensure it is safe for the child.

Since the last inspection, there have been no safeguarding incidents. However, the manager ensures that there is a strong safeguarding culture in the home.

Staff understand the child's individual risks and vulnerabilities well. Risk and behaviour management plans are clear, informative and updated regularly.

Staff benefit from regular training opportunities including bespoke training to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to meet the complex needs of the child in their care. Team meetings and supervision sessions take place regularly and provide staff with opportunities to reflect on their practice.

The manager is caring and child centred. She is committed to providing the child with a high level of care. The manager has high expectations for herself, the child and the staff.

The manager has good oversight of the home and is fully involved in the child's life. She has effective monitoring systems in place, which helps to promote the safety and well-being of the child in the home.

All the requirements from the previous inspection have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/09/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
03/09/2024	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 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 premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d)) Specifically, ensure that the garden is well maintained and free from hazards.	1 May 2026

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2781986

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Acorns to Oaks Children's Care & Support Limited

Registered provider address: Acorns to Oaks Children's Care and Support Limited Suite 3, 125 to 129 Witton Street, Northwich CW9 5DY

Responsible individual: Helen Johnson

Registered manager: Clare Ferris

Inspector

Zillah Brooks, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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