

SC020151

Registered provider: Country Care Children's 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 eight children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

Children live across two homes. One is a large farmhouse in a rural location, and the other is in a local town.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2024. They are currently on maternity leave.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the main house, and one child was living in the other home.

Inspection date: 16 December 2025

Date of last inspection: 22 July 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.

Arrangements for children moving into the home have strengthened notably. There is a clear and well-established process for obtaining comprehensive information from relevant professionals and those who know the child well. This ensures care planning is appropriately informed and responsive to individual needs. Risk assessments now appropriately consider how children will live alongside one another, reflecting a proactive and thoughtful approach to safeguarding and promoting positive peer relationships.

Children benefit from consistent and supportive care from staff. One child who experienced a high level of incidents following their admission has been well supported to build positive relationships. As a result, incidents have reduced significantly, and the child is now experiencing improved stability.

Children leaving the home do so in a planned and child-centred manner. Since the previous inspection, three children have moved on successfully, with each transition carefully planned and supported by relevant professionals. Staff maintained ongoing support throughout and after the move, demonstrating a strong commitment to children's continued well-being.

Children have positive and trusting relationships with staff. Interactions are warm, respectful, and responsive, demonstrating that staff know the children well and understand their individual needs and preferences. This contributes to a settled environment where children feel safe, supported, and emotionally secure.

Risk assessment processes have continued to strengthen and are consistently maintained. Assessments are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect children's changing needs and circumstances. Monthly summary reports are produced and used effectively to identify emerging patterns and trends, supporting proactive and informed risk management strategies.

The use of physical intervention is only when necessary to prevent harm. Management oversight is robust, with incidents reviewed promptly and staff supported through debrief discussions to promote reflective practice. Records confirm that interventions are proportionate, in line with policy, and focused on safeguarding children's welfare.

Incidents of self-harm are responded to promptly and sensitively, with children's safety and well-being prioritised. Practice demonstrates learning from incidents, which informs updates to individual safety plans. These plans are implemented consistently and contribute to effective risk reduction and support for children.

Arrangements for managing missing episodes are generally effective. Staff respond appropriately and debrief discussions with children are routinely undertaken to help understand underlying factors and inform future planning. On one occasion, staff did not attend promptly to collect a child who had been located at a police station. This isolated lapse was identified through management oversight and addressed through supervision. Management actions demonstrate effective monitoring and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Staff demonstrate a strong understanding of the children they care for, including a clear awareness of individual risks and the measures in place to manage these effectively. They can articulate children's specific needs and describe how practice promotes safety and well-being. Staff are also knowledgeable about the areas identified at the previous inspection and can explain the actions taken in response. There is a shared understanding of progress across the staff team, with staff providing examples of improvements and expressing confidence in the positive impact of changes made.

Arrangements for staff support and oversight are well established. Supervision sessions take place regularly and provide appropriate opportunities for reflection, learning, and professional development. Team meetings are well organised and promote open and constructive discussion, supporting a collaborative approach to problem-solving and continuous improvement.

Despite the registered manager being on maternity leave, effective leadership continuity has been maintained. The acting manager and acting deputy, with support from the responsible individual, have provided clear direction and oversight. They have worked proactively to address the requirements from the previous inspection. Evidence demonstrates that actions taken have resulted in meaningful and sustained improvements, which are embedded in practice and contributing to improved outcomes for children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/07/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/12/2024	Full	Good
27/02/2024	Full	Good
29/06/2022	Full	Outstanding

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC020151

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Country Care Children's Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: The Meadows, Beech Lane, Dove Holes, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8DJ

Responsible individual: Rachel Dowle

Registered manager: Rachel Wain

Inspector

Lauren Barwell, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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