

SC035976

Registered provider: Derbyshire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a local authority. It is registered to provide care for up to 4 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

There were 3 children living in the home at the time of this inspection. All children spoke with the inspector.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2025.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 March 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 10 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/09/2024	Full	Outstanding
05/12/2023	Full	Outstanding
17/10/2022	Full	Good
10/08/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: Outstanding

Children live in a home full of fun, laughter and love. When children come home from school, they eagerly talk with staff about their school day and the plans for the evening activities. A dedicated housekeeper ensures that children enjoy nourishing home-made meals. An independent reviewing officer said, 'The team are excellent and are focused on the staff group being a family.'

Children thrive and make remarkable progress in all areas of their lives. From their starting points, all children have made tremendous progress in their physical health, education, social skills, emotional wellbeing and behavioural stability. Regardless of children's complex and diverse needs, they make sustained improvements.

Staff nurture and genuinely care for the children. They ensure consistent care throughout a child's development, from being a child to young adult. This stability and security enable children to feel valued and loved. One child said: 'I am really glad I live here; people have changed my life.' Another said: 'Staff have really helped me over the years, when other people couldn't.'

Education is paramount in this home. All children benefit from significantly improved outcomes due to engaging in education and training. One child has successfully moved on to university, and another is developing vocational skills with the aim of having his own business. The younger children are progressing well in their education and have excellent attendance. One teacher said, 'I have never experienced such commitment from a manager and staff team.'

Therapeutic support enables children to overcome trauma and build emotional resilience. The staff team participates in reflective consultations with an independent therapeutic practitioner. A team member referred to this model's impact as 'extremely important and beneficial'.

One child has lived in the home for a significant period of time and is preparing to leave the home. He has made tremendous progress from starting points. He has great relationships with staff. He has a 'normal' life, with lots of positive friendships, activities and a girlfriend. He feels listened to. He has made decisions about his life and is prepared for independence.

When a child needed to move from the home quickly, extremely detailed transition plans helped the child to understand their journey to move on from the home. Transition planning enabled the child to have continued staff support for a significant time. This ensured that education, health and social plans continued with minimal change.

The home is a well-kept and attractive family home. Children take pride in their home and help maintain their garden and go litter picking in the community.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: Outstanding

Exceptional safeguarding practice is embedded throughout the home. Staff provide effective care for children who have complex and diverse needs.

Safeguarding incidents are rare; however, when an incident occurs, the manager ensures a prompt and rigorous response that ensures children's safety. Effective partnership working between staff and other agencies keeps children safe.

Partnership working is a strength of this home. The registered manager sources specialist support to address children's needs. This has enabled staff to benefit from learning about and using research-informed practice. This has had an exceptional impact on the lives and experiences of children.

Behaviour management is a strength of this home. Physical interventions have not been used since the last inspection. Consequences are rarely used in this home. There has been one incident where a child was briefly missing from the home. However, staff ensured that the missing protocol was followed to ensure the child's safe return.

Staff have warm and trusted relationships with children, which helps children to make excellent progress. Staff know the children well and know how to support each child in a way that works for them. This means that children's risks and vulnerabilities have reduced significantly.

Safe recruitment of new staff is rigorous. This assures managers of adults' integrity and character to safely work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: Outstanding

The registered manager is tenacious in ensuring that children develop, progress and grow. The manager is approachable, visible and active in the home and leads by example. An experienced responsible individual is in post and is awaiting a suitability decision from Ofsted.

Staff are exceptionally positive about the support provided by the registered manager. They say that they have seen progress since she came into post. One staff member said, 'The manager is inspirational.' Another said, 'She has been a great tower of strength for the team and is very supportive.'

The manager has identified high-quality, research-based practice to improve outcomes for children. Regular valuable input from a clinical team provides staff with the psychological guidance they need to provide daily therapeutic parenting. This has enabled staff to confidently use therapeutic, research-based models of care.

The staff team is committed to the children. Staff are cohesive and have a shared vision about caring for children. The team is stable, with minimal change since the last inspection. This has provided stability for children, which enables them to feel safe, secure and valued.

Staff benefit from a stimulating programme of ongoing training and development to enhance their skills. This is underpinned by rigorous supervision, appraisal and performance management arrangements.

The registered manager promotes a culture of continuous improvement and a commitment to high standards. She has an exceptional knowledge of the home's strengths and areas for development. She has made improvements to the systems for the recording and auditing of children's information. This provides transparency in showing children's progress. She strives to continually improve practice.

Feedback from professionals is consistently glowing. One healthcare professional said, 'I can only give you very positive comments on this home.' A social worker said, 'I wish we had more homes like this.' Children make exceptional progress in all aspects of their life because of the care they receive.

There have been no requirements set in this inspection.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC035976

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Derbyshire County Council

Registered provider address: County Offices, Matlock DE4 3AG

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Alice Thompson

Inspector

Amanda Ellis, Social Care Inspector

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