

SC065553

Registered provider: Derbyshire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a local authority. It provides care for up to 4 children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, 3 children were living at the home. All children were spoken to during the inspection.

The registered manager has been in post since July 2012.

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 February 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 6 August 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/08/2024	Full	Good
16/05/2023	Full	Good
12/01/2023	Full	Inadequate
25/01/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The home environment requires further development and attention. Several areas of the home need redecoration to maintain a warm and nurturing environment for children. Delays in the installation of new fire doors have resulted in planned redecoration work being postponed. This has led to some parts of the home appearing worn and in need of refreshment. Management remains proactive in escalating outstanding repairs with the local authority to ensure that progress is made.

Staff actively support children in preparing for the next stage of their lives. Staff have developed an engaging resource to help children understand and learn about their future pathways, incorporating different levels and incentives to maintain their motivation. This innovative approach encourages children to think positively about their next steps and promotes meaningful engagement in planning for their future.

Children are encouraged to have open and meaningful discussions with staff about the things that matter to them. Staff hold sensitive and thoughtful conversations with children, helping them understand their feelings and empowering them to keep themselves safe. Children will approach staff when they require support, showcasing the relationships they have built.

Staff take time to build trusting relationships with children. They demonstrate a strong understanding of each child and speak about them with genuine pride and respect. These relationships help children feel safe. It also strengthens children's self-esteem and confidence, supporting their emotional wellbeing and sense of belonging.

When children move into the home, there are well-planned and carefully managed transitions to ensure that the process is as smooth as possible and that they feel supported in settling quickly. When children move on from the home, they receive thoughtful and tailored support to ensure that they are prepared and confident for the next stage of their lives. One child who recently left the home said it was their 'safe space' and told the inspectors that they would not be the person they are today without the support they received from the staff.

Professionals and family members feel that staff communicate effectively and advocate well for the children. Despite the complex needs of the children in the home, professionals feel that children are making good progress.

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

When children experience difficulties getting along with one another, staff provide calm and consistent support to help them live harmoniously. Staff take time to speak with each child about their actions and explore how these may affect others. Staff approach these conversations with empathy and understanding to help children feel heard and

safe. There is strong communication with the wider team around each child to ensure that they receive consistent and coordinated support. Management undertakes detailed reflections with professionals and staff to consider how to best meet each child's needs and promote positive relationships in the home.

Physical interventions have been used appropriately and only for the minimum length of time necessary. Following any incidents involving physical intervention, children are spoken with to understand how the experience made them feel and to identify any further support they may need. All incidents are reviewed by the registered manager and by an independent trainer where appropriate.

When safeguarding incidents occur, staff respond promptly and appropriately to support children in the moment. Children are offered space and time to reflect, helping them explore how they were feeling and what contributed to the incident. Management oversight is thorough, providing detailed analysis of how staff managed the situation while also considering the wider context and what the child may have been experiencing at the time. This reflective oversight is used proactively to identify how to best support each child in the future and to guide staff practice.

Consequences are natural and restorative in nature, helping children understand the impact of their actions. Staff speak with children about any consequence applied and provide space for reflection and discussion. Each consequence is reviewed by management to ensure that it is appropriate and proportionate.

Risk assessments outline the known risks for each child and provide guidance on the actions staff should take to support them during challenging moments. Child-friendly versions are composed directly with children, ensuring that their voices are central in identifying what helps them feel safe and supported during incidents. These plans are updated as needed, ensuring that they remain relevant and responsive to each child's evolving needs.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Management has a clear and insightful understanding of staff's needs, taking proactive steps to identify where additional training or professional development would be beneficial. Development plans for the home are purposeful and well structured, providing a strong framework for ongoing improvement. Staff benefit from consistent and visible support from senior leaders, which reinforces a culture of learning and growth.

Managers demonstrate confident and effective oversight of the home. They set high expectations for children and staff, creating an environment where ambition and progress are encouraged. Their understanding of the home's strengths and areas for development is thorough, and when change is required, they put in place targeted, well-organised plans. These actions lead to improved practice and strengthen the overall quality of care children receive.

The quality of care review does not currently include feedback from children about the care they receive. There are also limited actions arising from the completion of these reports to drive improvements in the ongoing care provided to children. This is an area that requires further development.

Staff report feeling well supported by management and feel that their voices are heard and valued. Supervision sessions take place regularly, and staff benefit from the guidance, reflection and oversight these sessions provide. Team meetings are considered helpful, with detailed discussions about children that help staff reflect on their practice and consider how care can be improved.

Staff receive all mandatory training, including safeguarding. In addition, management proactively identifies and sources further learning opportunities that align with the individual and emerging needs of the children living in the home. This ensures that staff develop the specialist knowledge and skills required to provide informed and effective care.

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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. 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 and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that the home is maintained to a standard that supports the children living there and that any repairs are addressed in a timely manner. The registered person should also ensure that recommendations following fire risk assessments are responded to within appropriate timescales and without delay.	20 April 2026
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;	10 April 2026

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.

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; and

make a copy of the quality of care review report available on request to a placing authority, if the placing authority is not the parent of a child accommodated in the home.

The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff.

(Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (3) (4)(a)(b) (5))

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: SC065553

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Derbyshire County Council

Registered provider address: County Offices, Matlock DE4 3AG

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Richard Tong

Inspectors

Jess Baines, Social Care Inspector

Louisa West, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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