

SC437069

Registered provider: Derbyshire County Council

Assurance 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 three children with learning and/or physical disabilities.

There were two children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The home is being led by a manager, who is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 24 March 2026

Date of last inspection: 9 December 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, the inspectors evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have 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 home has recently experienced a turbulent time as there has been different managers leading the home within a short timeframe. A new manager has recently been appointed but they are yet to be registered by Ofsted. This has offered some assurances to the staff that the new appointee is committed to the home, children and staff.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out and two children remain living in the home. The children are supported to see important people in their lives and spend quality time with them.

Staff are proactive in ensuring that the children's health needs are met. Staff have supported children when extra assessments of their health are needed and ensured that any actions are completed.

The manager has spent time reviewing the systems within the home. Changes have been implemented to support the effectiveness and efficiency of the home. When key documents are updated, they are shared with staff. However, the manager does not have a process in place to assure themselves that all staff are reading these essential documents. If staff are not equipped with the most up to date information about each child, then there is the risk that they may not be responded to appropriately.

The manager has worked hard to create a positive and motivating environment for the staff. In response, staff have been re-energised in their role and appreciate being included in discussions about developments in the home. They are of the view that they are 'on the right track' and have started to enjoy their role more and remain committed to working in the home and therefore providing consistent care for the children.

Staff are in receipt of regular individualised supervision and have also benefited from a group supervision. Managers are not following up on personal issues raised by staff. In addition, a member of staff has requested essential training for their role, and it could not be identified if this had yet been actioned.

There have not been any physical interventions since the last full inspection. The debriefs for the children and staff continue to be developed. Staff have not received any training about the approach needed to complete child debriefs.

The medication process has been reviewed and further developed by managers. However, since the changes have been implemented, there have been 2 medication errors, meaning that the process is not yet effective. The staff took the correct

action when the errors were identified. The manager failed to notify Ofsted when a serious error was made.

The location risk assessment has been updated and clearly identifies the risk in the local area and what has been implemented to reduce those risks. This requirement has been met.

There have not been any new team members since the last inspection to evidence how the recruitment checks have been strengthened.

Professionals advised that they are able to identify that there has been improved communication between them and staff within the home in comparison to the last few months. This has promoted greater partnership working that has contributed to achieving better outcomes for the children.

Six requirements were set at the last full inspection. One requirement has been met, and one new requirement has been set. The recommendation made at the last full inspection remains.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/12/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/03/2025	Full	Good
03/01/2024	Full	Outstanding
17/01/2023	Full	Outstanding

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)) In particular, ensure that risk assessments and home care plans identify known and potential risk for each child and staff are familiar with them.	26 June 2026
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular, the registered person must ensure that— medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)(c)) In particular, ensure that staff follow the medication process and that all paperwork relating to medication is up to date.	26 June 2026

The registered person must ensure that— within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) In particular, ensure that staff and children are debriefed after measures of control have been used. This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.	26 June 2026
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff work as a team where appropriate; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(h)) In particular, ensure that the staff work together to improve outcomes for children. Relevant information is shared with staff in a timely manner, and documents are updated when needed. Ensure that there are suitable monitoring and review systems.	26 June 2026

This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.	
The employment of staff standard is that the registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing personal development; receive practice led supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once a year. (Regulation 33 (1)(a)(b)(c)) In particular, ensure that staff are supervised in line with the home's supervision policy. Ensure that staff are provided with supervision following any concerns relating to practice.	26 June 2026
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child— is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii) (e)) In particular, ensure that notifications are submitted when required.	26 June 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person must ensure that there is good employment practice. They must ensure that recruitment processes are followed to minimise potential risks to children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC437069

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: Post vacant

Inspectors

Lizette Watts, Social Care Inspector

Zoey Lee, Social Care Inspector

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