

Atkinson Unit

Registered provider: The Atkinson Centre, Atkinson Close, Beacon Lane, Exeter EX4 8NA

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this secure children's home

The home is managed by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict children's liberty. The home can accommodate up to eight children aged between 10 and 17 years under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989. Admission of any child under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

The commissioning of health services in this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

The manager is registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 21 October 2025

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out in line with the memorandum of understanding between Ofsted and the Department for Education (DfE).

The inspector visited the home with specialist architects. This visit forms part of the information that Ofsted provides to the DfE so that the Secretary of State can make a decision about the continuing suitability of the home to restrict children's liberty.

Overall, the home provides a good-quality environment that is suitable to meet the needs of children. One area of the home has a significant risk to security. The registered manager acknowledged this issue and confirmed that risk assessments would be immediately updated to guide staff and that urgent action would be taken to remedy it.

The recommendations raised at the last inspection will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/11/2024	Full	Good
12/09/2023	Full	Outstanding
07/06/2022	Full	Good
09/02/2022	Full	Good

What does the secure 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
<p>The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>understand the children’s home’s overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—</p> <p>meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a) (2)(c)(i))</p>	<p>5 November 2025</p>

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was so that Ofsted can provide information to the DfE so that the Secretary of State can make a decision about the continuing suitability of the secure children’s home to restrict children’s liberty.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Secure children's home details

Unique reference number: SC046276

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider: Devon County Council

Registered provider address: County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QD

Responsible individual: Steve Liddicott

Registered manager: Helen Bowkett

Inspector

Shaun Common, His Majesty's Inspector

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