

1264438

Blue Mountain Homes Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children and/or young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 3 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This home had an assurance visit on the 8 and 9 September 2020. The last full inspection was completed in December 2019.

This visit was conducted on site with a view to exploring the safeguarding practice at the home following concerns about staff conduct.

The provider's response when dealing with a serious safeguarding allegation about a member of staff has not been effective. The provider has not taken robust action as needed following a serious allegation and as such, has placed children at risk of harm. Senior leaders and the manager failed to report an allegation in a timely way to the local authority safeguarding team, as required in with the local safeguarding procedures. This lack of communication has prevented any external oversight, scrutiny and investigation from the local authority to explore if children are cared for safely.

The manager has also delayed their notification about the incident to Ofsted. This prevented the regulator from reviewing the serious incident and from monitoring the home's safeguarding practice. The lack of reporting to the police by the provider has compromised any potential investigation. Allowing staff to work in another children's home without a full investigation or satisfactory risk management further increases the vulnerability and risk to children.

The provider's policy for responding to serious concerns and allegations does not support the immediate referral to the local authority. This has led to a delay in open and transparent communication with safeguarding professionals.

Most children benefit from the positive relationships they have established with staff. Children can speak with the staff about concerns and complaints. One child said about the home, 'It's good, I like it.'

A couple of staff have left the home since the assurance visit. This has not impacted on children as a consistent core team of staff has supported them. However, the statement of purpose has not been revised following the changes to staffing in the home and submitted to Ofsted.

The manager follows safe recruitment practice. This means that staff are vetted before they start working with children.

During the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, staff have received face-to-face and online training relating to child exploitation, managing challenging behaviour and first aid. This supports the staff in their understanding of their responsibility to care for and keep children safe.

The manager provides regular supervision to the staff team. Where practice issues have been identified, these are discussed in individual supervisions. This allows staff to reflect on their practice and address areas for development.

The one requirement from the previous assurance visit has been met. The regulator is now receiving the independent person's reports about the quality of care.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/12/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/10/2019	Full	Inadequate
07/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
21/08/2018	Full	Good

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, 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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and</p> <p>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi)(vii))</p> <p>This specifically relates to senior leaders and the manager making prompt referrals to the local authority when there are serious concerns/allegations.</p>	26 February 2021
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a))</p>	26 February 2021

<p>This specifically relates to senior leaders and the manager ensuring that all children are safe.</p>	
<p>The registered person must—</p> <p>keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and</p> <p>notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (3)(a)(b))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the statement of purpose being amended with changes to the staff team and a copy being sent to Ofsted.</p>	<p>26 February 2021</p>
<p>The registered person must operate a disciplinary procedure which, in particular—</p> <p>provides for the suspension from work of an employee if necessary, in the interests of the safety or welfare of children. (Regulation 33 (2)(a))</p> <p>This specifically relates to the delay in immediate suspension of the staff following a serious allegation against a child.</p>	<p>26 February 2021</p>
<p>The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which—</p> <p>sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular—</p> <p>provide for the prompt referral of an allegation about current or ongoing abuse or neglect in relation to a child to the placing authority and, if different, the local authority in whose area the home is located. (Regulation 34 (1)(b) (2)(b))</p>	<p>26 February 2021</p>
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there. (Regulation 40 (4)(c))</p>	<p>26 February 2021</p>

This relates to the manager ensuring that notifications are sent to Ofsted without delay.	
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Information about this inspection

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

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1264438

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Limited

Registered provider address: 17 Leeland Mansions, Leeland Road, London W13 9HE

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Adam Coffield

Inspector

Sue Hatton, Social Care Inspector

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