

1264438

Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care and accommodation for up to four children who may have emotional and/or social difficulties.

The manager was registered in August 2020. However, they are not currently in day-to-day charge of this provision.

Inspection date: 14 October 2021

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at the full inspection on 6 and 7 September 2021. The purpose of this monitoring visit was to review the progress made by the provider to meet the three compliance notices linked to regulations 12, 13 and 32.

The registered manager was not available as he left shortly after the full inspection. Therefore, discussions took place with the deputy manager, area manager, responsible individual and the staff to explore the changes that have been implemented. The inspector made observations of the children with the staff and completed a tour of the house. A review of the updated documents, new monitoring systems and staff recruitment files also took place.

Children's risk assessments have been reviewed by the provider. These now include strategies for staff to follow to lessen the risks to children. These risk assessments are working documents and are amended by staff on a monthly basis or following a significant incident. Further changes are made by the child's key worker as well as senior staff, who are responsible for auditing these documents. The new process for updating and amending children's risk assessments is not yet embedded. The staff team needs to continue to demonstrate that it is following the strategies to help keep children safe, and that the documents are kept up to date and current.

The area manager has been integral in developing the home's action plan, and in implementing the steps identified in the compliance notices. He has introduced new monitoring and recording systems, which, if completed comprehensively, will help provide good management oversight. This includes handover tools, daily monitoring checklists, a new supervision and team meeting format, and audit tools to ensure that tasks are completed by the staff and manager. The provider's electronic recording system is now being correctly used to help audit the work completed by staff, as well as highlighting the progress made by the children against their agreed targets.

Recruitment practice has improved. The senior staff member responsible for recruitment of staff has completed safer recruitment training. Staff files demonstrate that all the relevant checks have been carried out. This helps to make sure that children are cared for by safe adults.

The home has been redecorated and repairs completed. The premises present as homely and comfortable and the children's bedrooms are now personalised and reflect their individual tastes. New daily routines are in place for the staff to make sure that the children's bedrooms stay clean, tidy and are free from hazards. A new and detailed daily handover sheet helps ensure that staff complete health and safety checks around the whole house.

The provider has taken sufficient steps to meet the three compliance notices issued following the full inspection in September 2021. However, these changes are all very recent and have not yet been embedded in staff practice. The home is also without a registered manager and the recruitment of a new manager has just commenced. The inspector did not focus on the requirements raised during the full inspection, and therefore these are carried forward.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/09/2021	Full	Inadequate
10/12/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/10/2019	Full	Inadequate
07/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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 health and well-being standard is that—</p> <p>the health and well-being needs of children are met;</p> <p>children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and</p> <p>children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff help each child to—</p> <p>achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child’s relevant plans. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i))</p>	7 November 2021
<p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children’s home; and</p> <p>have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that each child’s relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c))</p>	7 November 2021
<p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children’s home; and</p>	7 November 2021

<p>have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that arrangements are in place to—</p> <p>ensure the effective induction of each child into the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(i))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that placements are suitably matched.</p>	
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>the privacy of children is appropriately protected;</p> <p>children can access all appropriate areas of the children’s home’s premises; and</p> <p>any limitation placed on a child’s privacy or access to any area of the home’s premises—</p> <p>is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home;</p> <p>is necessary and proportionate;</p> <p>is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and</p> <p>allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))</p>	7 November 2021
<p>After consultation with the fire and rescue authority, the registered person must—</p> <p>take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of suitable fire equipment in the children’s home;</p> <p>provide adequate means of escape from the home in the event of fire;</p> <p>make arrangements for persons working at the home to receive suitable training in fire prevention.</p>	7 November 2021

(Regulation 25 (1)(a)(b)(c))	
<p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and</p> <p>have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)(c))</p> <p>These conditions should also apply to the registered manager.</p>	7 November 2021
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;</p> <p>an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>a child protection enquiry involving a child—</p> <p>is instigated; or</p> <p>concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or</p> <p>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))</p>	7 November 2021

Recommendation

- The registered person should have a workforce plan which can fulfil the workforce-related requirements of regulation 16, schedule 1 (paragraphs 19 and 20). The plan should be updated to include any new training and qualifications completed by staff while working at the home, and used to record the ongoing training and continuing professional development needs of staff – including the home’s manager. (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 53, paragraph 10.8)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted 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 Ltd

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

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Tina Ruffles, Social Care Inspector

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