

1264438

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately operated home provides care for up to 4 children with social and emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in December 2017, and the manager registered in April 2022.

Three children were living in the home at the time of this inspection. Two children were spoken with during the inspection.

Inspection dates: 6 and 7 January 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 9 July 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/07/2024	Full	Good
21/06/2023	Full	Good
15/11/2022	Full	Good
07/12/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are making good progress and support is tailored to children's individual needs and lived experiences. The registered manager and staff support children to understand their identity and encourage them to express themselves.

Children are respected and nurtured. Children experience positive interactions with staff, which encourages a sense of belonging. Children's creativity and talents are promoted, with arts and crafts displayed proudly throughout the home.

Two children have moved on from the home since the last inspection, and lessons have been learned. Extensive consideration has been given to the matching process to ensure that the needs of children who are transitioning into and out of the home are appropriately considered against those of the children already living in the home. This demonstrates that the needs of all children for whom the home is responsible are a priority

The registered manager shows professional curiosity about the health needs of children. One child has been supported to obtain an up-to-date health assessment and a review of their prescribed medication. This enabled them to make progress in terms of their individual health needs and see a reduction in the medical treatment required.

The children are supported to have safe contact with important family members who live out of the area, which aligns with children's care plans, while respecting their expressed wishes and feelings. Children therefore feel listened to and supported.

Children say they feel safe and there is a clear sense of belonging. Children's bedrooms reflect their individuality. However, restrictions are in place on windows throughout the home, which is disproportionate to the risks experienced by children. Where restraints are necessary, this should be kept under regular review.

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

The registered manager and staff respond to children with empathy and curiosity. They demonstrate a deep understanding of the impact of trauma for children and ensure that children are not shamed for their behaviours. Trauma-informed practice is well understood and embedded into the staff's interactions with children.

Children have access to an independent advocate. Children say they feel safe and are confident when sharing their views and opinions with staff.

Physical interventions are used proportionately and respectfully to keep children safe. Children receive appropriate debriefs and are consulted accordingly. Incidents are

recorded in detail and the relevant professionals involved in the care of the children are informed.

Children do not regularly go missing from home. When children do go missing from home, staff follow the agreed plans and search for them and keep the necessary professionals informed. Children are supported through key-working sessions to develop their understanding of the risks of going missing from care.

The registered manager ensures that safer recruitment practice is followed. Staff who come to work in the home are vetted and have the necessary skills to support children. This has helped children to develop trust and to have positive and safe relationships with those caring for them.

Risks around internet use are addressed via regular key-working sessions. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of online safety and support children to understand this. However, age-appropriate restrictions are not in place or reviewed for all children to ensure that they have healthy daily routines.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager has formed a stable and dedicated team of staff, who demonstrate commitment to the children and undertake all necessary training to enhance the support given to children. This has helped staff and children to navigate a previously unsettled period in the home.

Feedback from professionals about the communication received from the registered manager and staff about the care of the children is positive. The manager has advocated effectively for the children to support progress in their development.

Staff feel supported by the registered manager, and a high level of staff morale was directly observed during the inspection. Staff receive regular supervision sessions, which are reflective. Constructive feedback is given to staff around practice issues by the registered manager, and she has a comprehensive plan in place for further staff development.

The registered manager is a reflective practitioner, who demonstrates a thorough understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses. They have a clear plan to address improvement, and this includes the need to delegate tasks and to ensure the individual needs of children are the focus of staff training and induction.

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

Recommendations

- The registered manager should ensure that any restrictions placed on the children's freedoms, such as window restrictors, are necessary and proportionate, agreed with professionals involved with the children and kept under review. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10 and page 47, paragraph 9.41).
- The registered manager should continue to assess the risks to each child on a day-to-day basis, particularly in terms of online safety and use of the internet where this may impact upon children's daily routine. 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5).

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: 1264438

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: 21 Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8GX

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Sian Gemmell

Inspector

Sarah Adotey, Social Care Inspector

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