

1248979

Registered provider: Little Belsteads Care Home Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately operated. It provides care for up to seven children with learning disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2025.

There were seven children living at the home. Inspectors spoke with and/or observed all seven children during the inspection.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 December 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 5 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/09/2024	Full	Good
28/02/2024	Full	Good
13/02/2023	Full	Good
13/05/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children make progress from their starting points. They have good relationships with staff, who understand their individual needs. Staff speak of the children with warmth and positive regard and proudly celebrate their achievements.

Children's moves to the home are usually well planned and sensitively managed. Staff work well with previous carers and relevant professionals to introduce children slowly to the home. When children move in at short notice, the effect on others is considered, and staff work quickly to understand their needs to help them settle. This supports children to have positive beginnings at the home.

Children enjoy a range of activities and are encouraged to try new things. Staff plan for children to have positive experiences away from the home, including holidays. This helps children to have new adventures and develop personal interests.

Staff work well with family members to enhance the children's experiences of when they spend time together. Family members value that staff promote their involvement in their child's care planning. This ensures that children remain connected with important people in their lives.

Staff talk with children through their preferred methods of communication and are skilled at capturing their views and wishes. Staff use this to shape how they care for the children so that the care children experience remains responsive to their needs. One professional said, 'Staff are very child-focused and attuned to the children's needs.'

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

Staff understand children's individual risks and additional vulnerabilities. Risk assessments contain all known risks and agreed actions to keep children safe. Staff are clear about their responsibilities and use these risk assessments to safeguard children effectively.

Allegations against staff are rare. When they occur, leaders and managers take these seriously and involve relevant professionals to ensure that fact-finding safely identifies any shortfalls in practice and areas for improvement. Expectations of improvement and training are then clearly explained to staff.

Missing-from-home incidents rarely happen. When they occur, staff follow agreed protocols to locate children, return them safely to the home and involve all relevant professionals. Managers reflect with staff when children are missing from home to review and improve safety plans.

Staff do not use consequences to address unwanted behaviour with children. Instead, they focus on positive reinforcement and use restorative practice to repair relationships when upset has occurred. However, there have been some missed opportunities to reward children when this would have been appropriate.

Physical holds are used as a last resort to keep children safe from harm. Discussions take place to help staff and children reflect on such incidents. Records of incidents are clearly written, including any actions taken to prevent further occurrences. However, management oversight for one record does not fully consider the triggers to behaviour or staff actions.

Parts of the home require maintenance, cleaning and repair. There are some parts of the home that have been overlooked that may be detrimental to the health of children and staff. The manager has plans to address some of the issues. However, action to address some of the concerns did not start until inspectors identified them.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has been in the role for a short time. She is enthusiastic about her vision for the home and celebrates the achievements of children and staff. The manager demonstrates a good understanding of the team's strengths and areas for development, and improvements are underway. One professional said, '[Name of manager] is making a huge impact on the home, in a good way.'

Staff receive regular practice-related supervisions. Managers support staff to reflect on their experiences of caring for the children and any worries they may have. Team meetings take place regularly and are structured to give staff opportunities to discuss the needs of children and agree consistent approaches. Staff say they feel listened to and supported by the manager and leaders.

Safer recruitment checks are comprehensive. When agency staff work at the home, the manager completes the same level of scrutiny. This ensures that only the most suitable people care for the children.

Staff work with all relevant professionals effectively to assess and meet children's individual and often complex needs. Professionals speak highly of this joint working and the progress that children make as a result. One professional said, 'The new manager is having a huge positive impact on the home.'

The manager uses a range of monitoring tools to maintain an overview of staff performance. These tools highlight children's progress and any patterns or trends relating to the children's care. However, oversight is not yet consistent across all documents, including children's.

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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))	30 January 2026
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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d))	30 January 2026

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the system for rewarding and celebrating positive behaviour and recognising where children have managed situations well. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 47, paragraph 9.39)

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: 1248979

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Little Belsteads Care Home Limited

Registered provider address: Windsor House, Bayshill Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL50 3AT

Responsible individual: Peter Adams

Registered manager: Karen Peskett

Inspectors

Mark Cryer, Social Care Inspector (lead)
Sarah McGow, Social Care Inspector

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