

1269505

Registered provider: Benjamin UK Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides a therapeutic model of care and education for up to four children who have had adverse childhood experiences. There is a Department for Education-registered school on site that is run by the provider. The inspector only inspected the social care provision on this site.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2023.

Inspection dates: 26 and 27 September 2023

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	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 31 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/01/2023	Full	Good
09/02/2022	Full	Good
09/05/2019	Full	Good
03/01/2019	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

This inspection was brought forward to address a specific concern received by Ofsted. This concern was reviewed as part of the inspection.

Two children have moved into the home and two children have moved out since the last inspection. At the time of this inspection, four children were living at the home. The children are making good progress and are supported by staff who understand their individual needs.

Staff are ambitious for the children and encourage them with their education. One child recently achieved GCSE qualifications and now has a college place. Another child is attending college. A child who previously struggled to engage with education is now attending daily at the provider's school.

Staff consistently and regularly gain children's views. Good-quality individual conversations and regular children's meetings ensure that the children's opinions are included in their detailed care plans.

Children are helped to learn independence skills in line with their age and ability. One of the children travels to college independently, following several trial runs with staff. Staff encourage all the children to learn valuable life skills, such as basic housekeeping tasks and preparing and cooking meals with staff.

Staff know the people who are important to the children and communicate regularly with them. A child's relative said, 'The staff do everything they can for [name of child]. She has settled and has calmed down significantly. The staff care and are very good at keeping me in the loop. They have been brilliant.'

Children enjoy activities such as swimming, horse riding, rock climbing and trips out to the seaside. Staff capture these moments by taking photos and each child has a photo album. However, three of the children's photo albums have not been started. This means that some children may leave the home without memorabilia of these special moments to keep as part of their life story.

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

Children say they like living at this home. One child said, 'It is calm. I am happy here. I like the staff and I can speak to them about things.'

Staff encourage the children to discuss any worries, and trusting relationships between the children and staff are evident. There has been some bullying behaviour between children at the home and staff have been quick to recognise this. Staff have meaningful conversations with the children to address any unkind behaviour.

One of the children has a significant history of self-harming behaviour. Since living at the home, these incidents have greatly reduced. The positive relationships established with the staff have helped the child to feel settled. The child is now able to manage their emotions better in times of distress.

The home's location risk assessment is very detailed. The manager regularly updates this to ensure that any new dangers in the area for the children are highlighted. This provides staff with guidance to recognise dangers and know the actions to take to minimise these risks.

Physical intervention is only used as a last resort to prevent injury to the child or others. There have been four physical interventions since the last inspection. Staff recognise any changes in children's behaviours and are skilful at de-escalating incidents. They ensure that the children's views are sought following incidents. Listening to and working with children helps them to find better ways of managing times of distress.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2023 and is working towards a required level 5 qualification. Before taking on their current role, the manager was deputy manager at this home.

An allegation made about practice raised concerns about decision-making on one occasion. This matter has been thoroughly investigated by the provider and concluded satisfactorily. Extra guidance and support from senior managers have been put in place to help strengthen decision-making.

Staff's recording of incidents is generally good. However, inaccurate information has been recorded on occasions. For example, the details recorded about room searches contradict the information in the corresponding incident reports. This could result in staff following incorrect information.

Staff work in line with the ethos of the home as detailed in the home's statement of purpose. The manager has regularly reviewed and updated the statement of purpose. However, the updated versions have not been submitted to Ofsted as required.

Staff spoke highly of the manager. They said that they feel well supported and valued by the manager and the deputy manager.

Research-informed practice is incorporated into the daily running of the home. Therapeutic guidance is given by the provider's therapist in regular child-focused meetings. These meetings explore group dynamics and progress made and help staff to develop their practice further.

The manager and staff communicate well with external professionals. Social workers are complimentary and say that the manager works in partnership with them and information is shared promptly.

The manager has met the two requirements raised at the last inspection.

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, 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
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— 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)(b) (2)(a))	27 October 2023
The registered person must— notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement [of purpose] within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (3)(b))	27 October 2023

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure that the home's records on each child represent a significant contribution to their life history. Staff should understand their important role in encouraging the child to reflect on and understand their history, according to their age and understanding. Staff should keep and encourage children to keep appropriate memorabilia of their time spent living at the home and help them to record significant events. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.5)

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: 1269505

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Benjamin UK Ltd

Registered provider address: Coach House, White House Court, Hockliffe Street,
Leighton Buzzard LU7 1FD

Responsible individual: Claudette Rudman

Registered manager: Natalija Balatunovic

Inspector

Lynne Drage, Social Care Inspector

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