

1280210

Registered provider: First Blue Healthcare Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for two children who have had adverse childhood experiences.

The current manager took up post on 3 February 2020 and was registered with Ofsted on 29 September 2020. The manager is experienced and has an appropriate qualification.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

We last visited this setting on 6 October 2020 to carry out a monitoring visit. The report is published on the Ofsted website.

Inspection dates: 25 to 26 May 2021

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: 9 March 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: improved effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/03/2020	Interim	Improved effectiveness
30/09/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/02/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive good levels of support from a committed and experienced staff team. Staff have a positive view of the children and work hard to engage with them. This helps children to feel confident about their relationships with staff and supports their progress.

Staff ensure that children have clear health plans and are registered with the relevant primary healthcare services. Staff have continued to support the children throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to access healthcare services. This support has ensured that there has been no impact on the children's emotional or physical health.

Children's medication is stored and administered safely by trained and competent staff.

Staff support children to express their views, particularly in relation to seeing their friends and family, some of whom live some distance away. This ensures that children keep in touch with the people most important to them.

The manager understands the importance of careful matching of children's needs. However, impact risk assessments do not always include the views of other professionals and the children already living at the home. This creates a missed opportunity to promote consultation with all stakeholders.

Some children have maintained good college attendance and are achieving academic success. However, despite staff giving encouragement and lots of support, some children have struggled to engage in any form of education or training activities. This has compromised some children's opportunities to benefit from learning and the importance of having a daily routine.

One child's bedroom is extremely untidy, has stains on the wall and empty packets and bottles on the floor. This shortfall detracts from children having a homely environment to live in and to enjoy.

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

Children feel safe. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have continued to receive regular safeguarding training and have a good understanding of their duties in promoting children's welfare. This ensures that staff are confident in the procedures to follow should any concerns arise. Staff make sure that care plans and risk assessments are in place for each child to help to keep children safe.

Staff know what action to take to promote children's safety if they go missing. There are effective procedures and protocols to promote their safe return. None of the children in placement currently have gone missing from the home.

Staff are trained in the appropriate use of physical restraint but only ever use this as a last resort, preferring to use de-escalation techniques. The home's written records confirm that there have been no incidents of physical intervention since the last inspection.

Staff make sure that the home is kept safe by carrying out regular health and safety checks and making sure that equipment is serviced. Staff also practise the home's fire evacuation procedure and test the system on a regular basis. Children also participate in fire evacuation so that they know what to do in the event of a fire or other emergency situations, which helps to keep everyone safe.

Children are protected by the organisation's recruitment practice. Staff are vetted and assessed as suitable before any appointment is made. This procedure promotes the safety of children by preventing unsuitable adults from working with them.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager has ensured that staffing levels are appropriate to meet children's needs. Staff are well supported through regular supervision and annual appraisal and benefit from a range of appropriate training to develop their skills and knowledge. Most staff have completed the level 3 diploma in residential childcare. The remaining staff are on track to complete their award within the required timescales.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the manager has continued to ensure that good working relationships exist with other professionals, such as the police, education providers and social workers. A placing social worker told the inspector, 'communication is very good with the home'. This means that there is a coordinated approach to meeting children's needs, and communication is shared quickly, which helps to keep children safe.

The home's statement of purpose lacks important details. Specifically, it does not give details of the staff and their qualifications involved in providing care for children living in the home. This limits the information available to placing authorities and families.

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
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. 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 and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to the environment in one child's bedroom.	8 July 2021
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(iv)) This specifically relates to children in the home being engaged in education, training or employment.	8 July 2021

The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)) This specifically relates to impact risk assessments and including consultation with others as part of the assessment process.	8 July 2021
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (1) (3)(a)(b)) This specifically relates to having an up-to-date staffing list in the statement of purpose	8 July 2021

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: 1280210

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: First Blue Healthcare Limited

Registered provider address: Seighford Hall, Clanford Road, Seighford, Stafford
ST18 9NL

Responsible individual: Amanda Porter

Registered manager: Winston Damerum

Inspector

Dave Carrigan, Social Care Inspector

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