

2537375

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 three children who have had adverse childhood experiences.

The current manager was registered with Ofsted in February 2020 and is suitably qualified.

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 4 November 2020 to carry out an assurance visit. The report is published on the Ofsted website.

Inspection dates: 4 to 5 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: 4 March 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:

Ofsted issued a compliance notice in respect of regulation 12 and issued a restriction of accommodation notice. A monitoring visit was carried out on 26 May 2020. This

visit found that the provider had met the compliance notice. The restriction of accommodation notice was then ended. An assurance visit was carried out on 4 November 2020. Ofsted did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/03/2020	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive good-quality care from staff who demonstrate a commitment to meeting their individual needs. As a result, children make good progress emotionally and socially.

The manager understands the importance of carefully matching new children with children already living at the home. However, the impact risk assessment fails to include the views of other professionals and the children currently living at the home. This means that children could be placed at the home without their needs being fully assessed.

Children attend school placements that are appropriate to their abilities. Staff provide transport to support children with travelling to and from respective school placements, and they seek feedback from their teachers on their progress. This sharing of information helps staff to stay up to date with children's academic progress.

Children have clear health plans and are registered with the relevant primary healthcare services. Children have access to professional health support, including a therapist who children can see every week. This enables children to receive support and guidance in relation to their physical health and emotional well-being.

Staff support children to see family members and those who are important to them. The staff facilitate arrangements flexibly and provide transport for children who are placed a long distance from their home locality. During the COVID-19 pandemic, time with families has continued. When necessary, this has been by telephone or using computer technology to stay in touch. This time spent with families enables children to retain positive links with their home community and those people that are most important to them.

Children are settled and are making positive changes to their lives. Children's social workers speak positively about the quality of care. Children are equally positive. They feel able to talk to staff when they are worried or feel unsafe. One child told the inspector, 'Staff know when I am bothered about something. They ask me what's wrong and help me to sort things out.'

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

Children feel safe living at the home. The quality of relationships between children and the staff is a strength of the home. This enables children to address previous concerning behaviours and to work towards more positive outcomes. Open and honest communication is promoted so that children feel able to discuss any worries or concerns.

Staff complete risk assessments on each child, and they keep these risk assessments up to date through regular reviews. This ensures that, as a child's circumstances change, staff can remain alert to any new threats to their welfare.

The positive relationships that children have with the staff means that the need for physical intervention is minimal. Incidents that do require physical intervention are monitored and evaluated by the manager. Debriefs routinely take place with children and staff to provide opportunities to explore each incident and to capture any learning.

Children do not go missing from the home. In the event of a missing from care episode, staff know how to implement and follow the missing from care protocol and procedures.

When appointing staff, the manager follows safer recruitment practice guidelines. This means that only those deemed suitable are allowed to work with children.

Regular health and safety checks, along with routine servicing of equipment, ensure that the home is kept safe for children, staff and visitors. Staff are trained in fire safety procedures, and they ensure that children take part in fire evacuation drills, so that they understand how to leave the home safely in the event of an emergency.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Staff have good access to training opportunities to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills they need to meet the diverse needs of the children they look after. All staff are qualified or are working towards gaining the level 3 diploma in residential childcare.

Monthly team meetings and regular, reflective supervision mean that staff are well supported in their roles. Staff feel valued and are motivated towards delivering care that makes significantly positive improvements to children's lives.

Effective working relationships exist with other professionals, such as the police, teachers and social workers. Effective communication ensures that information is shared quickly, which helps to keep children safe. One social worker told the inspector, 'Communication is fantastic; I get regular emails and phone calls.'

The manager's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been effective. Clear risk management strategies are in place. Appropriate checks are carried out when visitors come to the home, and regular reviews are carried out to meet the current guidance. These measures contribute to ensuring that the children remain safe and healthy.

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 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 includes consultation with others as part of the assessment process.	20/06/2021

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: 2537375

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: First Blue Healthcare Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 11, Pearl House, Anson Court, Staffordshire
ST19 0BG

Responsible individual: Amanda Porter

Registered manager: Martin Hodgson

Inspectors

Dave Carrigan, Social Care Inspector

Melanie Griffin, Social Care Inspector

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