

2588370

Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to accommodate three young people with social and emotional difficulties. The home is owned by a private organisation.

Inspection date: 2 December 2020

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was carried out because of concerns about a recent escalation in safeguarding incidents. Ofsted was made aware of several safeguarding incidents happening in a short space of time. There were concerns that young people may be at risk of harm.

The registered manager is currently not working at the home. At present, an acting manager is in day-to-day charge of the home.

Appropriate action has been taken in response to the safeguarding incidents. Staff have worked collaboratively with other professionals to safeguard young people. For example, when young people have gone missing, staff have actively searched for them and have followed appropriate procedures.

The acting manager has ensured that young people's risk-management plans are regularly reviewed. Multi-agency support is provided to young people where necessary.

Young people have very positive relationships with staff. These positive relationships are a protective factor as young people feel able to be open about their vulnerabilities and risks.

Staff are kind and compassionate, and they provide a nurturing environment. They understand the young people's needs well.

Senior management arrangements are complex. There are three senior managers overseeing various areas of practice in the home. There have been some instances of poor information sharing and/or recording. Given the complicated management structure there is a risk of something being missed. An example of this is a senior manager not knowing some details relating to a safeguarding investigation.

Some risks to children are known, but there has been a lack of proactive work to reduce the risks. An example of this is a lack of planning and timely intervention for a young person to address drug and alcohol misuse. Appropriate plans are now in place.

The acting manager is new to managing a children's home. He is positive about the support he has received. However, at the point of this visit, he had not had a formal supervision meeting with his line manager for eight weeks. This does not meet the company's own minimum expectation of one supervisory meeting per month, and it does not recognise the vulnerability of the management arrangements in the absence of the registered manager.

Two requirements and three recommendations were made at the last Ofsted visit. These were not checked during this monitoring visit and will therefore be carried over. One new recommendation has been made following this visit.

Recent inspection history

The home has not yet been inspected.

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
In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff— seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans; seek to secure the input and services required to meet each child's needs; if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans; and seek to develop and maintain effective professional relationships with such persons, bodies or organisations as the registered person considers appropriate having regard to the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation. (Regulation 5 (a)(b)(c)(d))	20 December 2020
If the independent person becomes aware of a potential conflict of interest (whether under regulation 43(3) or otherwise) after a visit to the home, the independent person must include in the independent person's report— details of the conflict of interest; and the reasons why the independent person did not notify the registered provider of the conflict of interest before the visit. The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to— HMCI;	20 December 2020

upon request, the local authority for the area in which the home is located;

the placing authorities of children;

the registered provider and, if applicable, the registered manager; and

the responsible individual (if one is nominated).

(Regulation 44 (6)(a)(b) (7)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e))

Recommendations

- Children in residential care usually live in a group environment, and so it is particularly important that they can spend time away from other group members. Staff should respect children's privacy and support the other children living in the home to do so. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.17)
- The registered person is responsible for leading a team which provides high quality care for all children living in the home. They must lead and manage the home in a way that delivers the ethos, outcomes and approach set out in the home's Statement of Purpose. They should also play a key role in shaping the ethos of the home through developing a culture of high aspiration for children which is demonstrated through the care, resources and opportunities offered to the children. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.4)
- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children. The Statement of Purpose is an important document in the process of care planning as it sets out the needs of children the home is set up and equipped to care for. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)
- Ensure that the registered person has systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice from an appropriately experienced professional, which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, 13.2)

Information about this inspection

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2588370

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: 17 Leeland Mansions, Leeland Road, London W13 9HE

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Shaun Carr

Inspector

Caroline Brailsford, Social Care Inspector

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