

2588370

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home is run by a suitably qualified manager who has been registered with Ofsted since January 2022.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living in the home.

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 February 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 22 November 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/11/2023	Full	Outstanding
13/12/2022	Full	Good
12/10/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Children thrive in a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment that mirrors a family home. The atmosphere is relaxed and child focused, with staff and the manager actively engaging with children. The home is filled with personal touches, including photos of the children and staff, reinforcing a strong sense of belonging and community.

Children make exceptional progress in all areas of their development. They are engaged in education that meets their individual needs, with outstanding outcomes. For example, one child has successfully completed their national exams, transitioned to high school with excellent attendance and is excelling in their learning. Another child is progressing towards independence, securing part-time employment, taking driving lessons and preparing to transition from the home with confidence and ambition.

Building and sustaining meaningful relationships is a key strength of this home. Staff invest time in truly understanding each child, developing strong, trusting bonds that provide emotional security. The well-being of every child is at the heart of the home's practice, ensuring that they feel valued, listened to and cared for.

A culture of joy, laughter and playfulness permeates the home. The positive and nurturing relationships between staff and children foster a deep sense of safety and emotional resilience. One child affectionately described the staff as 'family' and the other children in the home as 'siblings', demonstrating the strength of the home's nurturing approach.

Children have a strong voice in shaping their care and daily experiences. Regular children's meetings are well attended and provide meaningful opportunities for children to express their views. Their contributions are taken seriously, with the manager providing clear feedback, which is documented and accessible. This inclusive approach empowers children and reinforces their sense of ownership over their home and future.

This is a home where children receive exceptional care, make outstanding progress and feel a deep sense of stability, belonging and emotional security.

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

The home demonstrates exceptional practice in safeguarding children, creating an environment where they feel safe, secure and valued. Staff implement highly effective strategies that significantly reduce children's vulnerabilities and associated

risks. As a result, there have been no missing-from-home episodes, reflecting the home's proactive approach to safeguarding. Children consistently express that they feel safe and well cared for.

Risk management is meticulous and dynamic. Staff have an in-depth understanding of each child's individual risks, and the manager ensures that safety and support plans are continuously reviewed and updated. These plans are comprehensive, detailing historic behaviours to provide crucial context and guide staff in delivering tailored, responsive care. Children are actively involved in shaping their safety plans, ensuring that their voices are heard and their perspectives are valued.

Serious incidents are rare due to the home's proactive and child-centred approach. When challenges do arise, they are managed with skill and sensitivity, minimising disruption and distress. There have been no physical interventions since the last inspection, demonstrating the home's outstanding ability to de-escalate situations and support children in regulating their emotions safely.

A culture of learning and reflection is embedded in practice. Every incident is subject to rigorous management oversight, with clear evaluations and feedback informing continuous development. Lessons learned are shared across the team, reinforcing a culture of accountability and professional curiosity. Communication with external professionals is timely and effective, ensuring a coordinated and well-informed safeguarding response.

The home's commitment to safeguarding extends to its robust recruitment processes. Stringent safer recruitment procedures ensure that all necessary checks are completed before staff begin working with children, maintaining the highest standards of safety and protection.

This is a home where children's safety is paramount and where exceptional care and vigilance enable them to flourish with confidence and security.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

Leadership within the home is inspirational and highly effective. The manager demonstrates an exceptional understanding of each child's individual needs, experiences and aspirations. His unwavering commitment to improving outcomes is evident in all aspects of the home's operation. He leads with passion and dedication, fostering a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment where children flourish. This commitment extends beyond the children to the staff team, who feel valued, empowered and well supported under his leadership.

Staff feedback is overwhelmingly positive. They are highly knowledgeable about the children's care, educational progress and risk management. The sense of belonging within the team is profound, with staff describing the home as a 'family'. One staff member said, 'I come to work and don't feel like I am at a job. I love coming here; it feels like a home from home.' This culture of care and mutual respect is reflected in a

stable staff team, with minimal turnover since the last inspection, ensuring consistency and security for the children.

External professionals also praise the home's leadership and staff. A social worker stated, 'They are a lovely team. [Name of child] has strong relationships with staff members; they know her really well.' This reflects the home's exceptional ability to build trusting relationships that foster emotional security and positive attachments for children.

The manager provides strong oversight, ensuring that staff receive the right balance of support and challenge to drive continuous improvement. Regular supervision, reflective team meetings and access to high-quality, child-specific training equip staff with the skills and confidence to provide outstanding care. A culture of professional curiosity and learning is embedded, ensuring that the highest standards of practice are consistently maintained.

Children's voices are at the heart of decision-making. Their views are actively sought and meaningfully influence the running of the home, demonstrating a strong commitment to inclusive and child-led practice. Staff go above and beyond to ensure that each child's individual needs are met, further reinforcing the home's reputation for excellence.

This is an exceptionally well-led home where strong, ambitious and child-focused leadership creates an environment in which both children and staff thrive.

No requirements or recommendations have been made following this inspection.

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: 2588370

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: Unit 20-21 Pullman Business Court Mallard Way,
Pride Park, Derby DE24 8GX

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Christian Harrison

Inspector

Lauren Barwell, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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