

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 owned by a private provider and cares for up to 3 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered in January 2022.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living in the home. The inspectors met and spoke with all three children.

Inspection dates: 24 and 25 February 2026

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: 11 February 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/02/2025	Full	Outstanding
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: good

Children benefit from living in a warm, welcoming and nurturing home environment where there is a strong family ethos. This positive culture is reflected in the caring and respectful interactions between adults and children. As a result, children are relaxed, comfortable, and develop trusting relationships with staff who know them extremely well and show genuine interest in their wellbeing.

Education is consistently prioritised. Children attend their educational provisions regularly and speak positively about their learning. When children are at home on school days, staff ensure that routines continue to support educational engagement. This approach has contributed to all children making good progress. Notably, one child who had experienced a prolonged period of school refusal has been successfully supported to return to mainstream education, where they are now thriving.

The registered manager is an effective advocate for children. Staff demonstrate a strong understanding of each child's individual needs and the support required to meet them. Referrals to external services are followed up promptly, to ensure children access specialist help without unnecessary delay.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that reflect their interests and broaden their experiences. For example, a child with a passion for K-pop was supported to travel to see their favourite band, a memorable experience the child spoke about with enthusiasm.

A child moving into the home within the last year has had a noticeable impact on the dynamics. The pre-admission risk assessment did not fully explore how the new child's behaviours might affect those already living in the home. One child reported that this change has influenced their happiness negatively and that they sometimes feel they receive less attention than before.

Despite this, staff have worked proactively to help all the children build positive relationships. They have been creative, reflective, and persistent in helping the new child settle and integrate. Staff ensure the child is fully involved in their plans, and this has supported their developing sense of safety and belonging.

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

Staff respond to significant incidents, including those involving physical intervention or self-harm, with care, professionalism and a clear focus on keeping children safe. Immediate actions prioritise children's welfare, and this is followed by thoughtful reflection and key-work sessions that support children to understand their experiences. Children are encouraged to share their views about what happened, why it may have happened and what could help them in the future. Staff demonstrate a commitment to

safeguarding, often going above and beyond to ensure children receive consistent support at times of heightened need.

Risk assessments identify key risks and, in many cases, provide clear and individualised guidance to staff. Where these are detailed, they enable staff to respond confidently and consistently. However, some assessments lack clarity, contain subjective language or do not fully explain the strategies expected of staff. Therapeutic approaches, such as PACE, are referenced, but not always described, which may lead to variations in practice.

Children do not go missing from home. This is a positive reflection of the trusting relationships they have with staff and their sense of safety. Children report that they feel safe, and they appear settled and secure in the home environment.

Staff provide sensitive, age-appropriate guidance to children about keeping themselves safe in the community and in their personal relationships. For example, one child has benefited from open and honest conversations about sexual health. Staff's relatable and non-judgemental approach has helped the child reflect on advice and make safer, more informed decisions about their wellbeing.

The approach to investigating safeguarding concerns is not robust. Although investigations have led to clear outcomes, including staff being removed from duty and disciplinary action where appropriate, there are important gaps in the quality of recording, the depth of enquiries and the triangulation of children's views. Investigations are not completed by the registered manager, limiting their oversight and reducing opportunities to identify and address practice concerns with staff. This reduces assurance that safeguarding matters are consistently explored in full and that learning is used to strengthen practice.

These weaknesses have a direct impact on children. Incomplete investigations limit professional curiosity, and insufficient engagement with children means their lived experiences are not fully understood or used to inform safeguarding decisions. Missed opportunities to question staff conduct thoroughly, combined with occasions where concerns were not reported through the correct channels, create a risk that unsafe or inappropriate behaviour might not be identified or challenged promptly.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager provides effective leadership and maintains clear oversight. They have a detailed understanding of each child's needs and daily lived experiences, and this informs decision-making and practice. Staff skills, training and professional development are monitored well, contributing to a stable, confident team and a consistent, child-centred environment.

Professional supervision is regular, purposeful and child-focused. Records demonstrate in-depth discussions about children's progress and needs, and there is evidence of reflective practice, particularly where children's behaviours present challenges. These conversations support staff to review their responses and adapt strategies to better meet

children's needs. No performance or conduct concerns have been identified through supervision, and staff report feeling well supported.

Staff receive the required training and are encouraged to pursue relevant qualifications. Leaders prioritise professional development, creating a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

External professionals speak positively about the workforce. They report excellent communication, timely updates and good multi-agency working. Professionals are confident that staff understand children well and provide good-quality, nurturing care.

Team meetings take place regularly and provide helpful opportunities to share updates and consider children's plans. However, the handwritten minutes do not always capture the depth of discussion or the actions and assurance arising from those conversations. For example, a brief reference to whistleblowing procedures lacked context or follow-up, which is particularly relevant given recent concerns identified in investigations into staff conduct.

The registered manager has effective oversight of most areas of practice; however, oversight of safeguarding investigations is not yet sufficiently robust. Some investigations have been completed by individuals other than the registered manager, limiting their ability to fully scrutinise the quality of enquiries, triangulate children's views and ensure learning is captured and embedded. This shortfall links to weaknesses identified in safeguarding responses. The registered manager recognises this is an area that requires strengthening.

While most stakeholder feedback is positive, one parent expressed concern that their child appears unhappy and that their emotional wellbeing is not fully supported. Leaders acknowledge this and are taking steps to explore the concerns further, strengthen engagement with the parent and ensure the child's experience and views are fully considered.

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(v)(vi)(vii)(e)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff understand how to report concerns they may have about other staff members in the home and that these concerns are reported in a timely manner. These concerns must then be fully investigated and reviewed by the registered person and any learning from the investigation be embedded to improve practice.	26 April 2026

Recommendations

- 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. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)

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: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd, 21 Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8GX

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Christian Harrison

Inspectors

Lauren Barwell, social care inspector
Patrick Rowell, social care inspector

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