

2718067

Registered provider: Blue Kite Children Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a private organisation and is registered to care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home.

The registered manager post is vacant.

Inspection dates: 23 and 24 April 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 5 June 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection:

A restriction of accommodation notice was served following an assurance inspection. This notice expired on 29 April 2025. Compliance notices issued under Regulations 12 and 13, both were found to have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/06/2024	Full	Good
20/11/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/07/2023	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home. Four children have moved out of the home since the last inspection. The inspector had the opportunity to speak to both children during the visit.

The home is well presented, clean and tidy. Areas of the home have been repainted, and items to make the environment feel more homely have been purchased for the internal and external areas of the home. Children's bedrooms are clean and appropriately furnished.

Children's health needs are not always managed effectively. There is insufficient action taken in response to identified concerns about children's health. This causes delays in the support children receive.

Children are supported to attend school and staff help them work towards their educational goals. For example, one child has been supported to apply for college to pursue their interest in music. However, for children who do not attend an academic provision, or where part of their education plan involves home learning, leaders, managers and staff are unable to demonstrate that children are regularly encouraged and supported to participate in activities that promote their learning and development.

Systems to capture children's wishes and feelings are not used effectively. Children's meetings are not regularly attended by children, and records do not demonstrate consistent consultation with all children about the care they receive. This limits children's ability to influence decisions about their care.

Children are supported to spend time with their family. Leaders, managers and staff build good relationships with children's family members and work together to make family time a positive experience for children.

Children's moves out of the home are well managed by leaders, managers and staff. Children's social workers commended the staff for their commitment to moving children on from the home in a sensitive and child-focused way. This ensures that children do not experience feelings of rejection and abandonment.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Missing-from-home incidents are managed effectively. Staff search for children and work closely with the police to minimise the time that children are away from the home. However, when children return to the home after going missing they are not always

given the chance to speak to an independent person about the missing-from-home episode.

Risk management plans outline children's risks and the action staff should take to mitigate them. However, staff do not always follow these measures. This reduces the effectiveness of safeguarding measures and leaves children potentially at risk of further harm.

Restraint practice is used as a last resort to safeguard children and others. Leaders and managers ensure that staff receive appropriate training to apply restraint safely. However, on one occasion, an unapproved hold was used with a child. Despite being aware of this, leaders and managers have not implemented measures to prevent a recurrence in the future. In addition, leaders, managers and staff do not always ensure that children have the opportunity, after the incident, to talk about how they have felt about being held.

Staff do not demonstrate a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities to safeguard children. For example, they do not consistently inform relevant partners when safeguarding incidents occur. As a result of this, opportunities to ensure that children receive timely and appropriate support are missed.

The manager has established relationships with partners and regularly participates in multi-agency meetings focused on the well-being and safety of children. External professionals report improvements in communication since her arrival. However, in her absence, partners are not always informed of significant incidents involving children to ensure that all strategies to safeguard children are considered.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The registered manager post has been vacant since September 2024. Since that time, the home has been managed by a permanent manager. She has submitted her application to become the registered manager of the home.

At the time of the inspection, the home was registered to care for up to five children. However, the provider has since applied for a variation to reduce its registration to four.

Staff have confidence in the manager's leadership of the home. She is described as supportive and approachable. Staff access to practice-related supervision has improved. However, leaders and managers have not ensured that supervisions take place in accordance with the home's statement of purpose.

Team meetings take place regularly and are used as an opportunity for collective learning. Staff benefit from a comprehensive training package that includes needs-led training to help them meet children's specific needs. However, leaders and managers have not ensured that all staff have completed the provider's own mandatory training.

Management oversight requires improvement. For example, effective action is not always taken to address shortfalls in staff practice. This is a missed opportunity to develop the staff team.

The manager has been unable to demonstrate that a child's concerns about being restrained have been investigated. This does not assure the regulator that the welfare of children is always prioritised.

Insufficient staffing in the home has prevented children from establishing long-lasting, trusting relationships with the people who care for them. However, leaders and managers continue to try to recruit a permanent team.

Leaders and managers have complied with the restriction of accommodation notice previously imposed. This has now been removed.

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 children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— engage with them; and take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— ascertain and consider each child's views, wishes and feelings, and balance these against what they judge to be in the child's best interests when making decisions about the child's care and welfare; help each child to express views, wishes and feelings; help each child to understand how the child's views, wishes and feelings have been taken into account and give the child reasons for decisions in relation to the child; regularly consult children, and seek their feedback, about the quality of the home's care. (Regulation 7 (1)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that leaders, managers and staff use measures to capture children's wishes and feelings effectively. Leaders, managers and staff should ensure that children are regularly consulted about the quality of care they receive.	12 June 2025

Leaders and managers must ensure that when children raise concerns about their care, these are taken seriously and investigated.	
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 achieve the child’s education and training targets, as recorded in the child’s relevant plans; support each child’s learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible; help each child who is above compulsory school age to participate in further education, training or employment and to prepare for future care, education or employment. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(vii)(ix))	12 June 2025
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—	12 June 2025

that staff help each child to— achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child’s relevant plans; that each child has access to such dental, medical, nursing, psychiatric and psychological advice, treatment and other services as the child may require. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(c)) Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that information requested by health professionals in order to help them manage children’s health needs is provided without delay.	
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. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vi)) Specifically, leaders, managers and staff must ensure that children’s risk management plans are followed. Furthermore, they must ensure that partners working with staff to safeguard children are, where relevant, updated about safeguarding incidents in a timely manner, based on children’s plans.	12 June 2025
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children’s home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—	12 June 2025

lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose;

ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;

ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child;

understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home;

use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(d)(f)(h))

Leaders and managers must ensure that they use monitoring systems to regularly review the quality of care given to children.

Leaders and managers must ensure that staff receive supervision in accordance with the home's statement of purpose.

Leaders and managers must ensure that staff complete the home's mandatory training in the required timescales.

Specifically, leaders and managers must ensure that the day-to-day practice of staff members is closely monitored to ensure that the quality of care provided to children is not compromised.

Furthermore, leaders and managers must ensure that staff regularly liaise with partners to ensure that there is a multi-agency approach to meeting children's needs.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that when children go missing from the home they are always offered an independent return home interview on their return. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)

- The registered person should ensure that following the use of physical restraint, children have the opportunity to take part in a debrief about the incident that also considers how they felt about the hold. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 50, paragraph 9.50)

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: 2718067

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Blue Kite Children Care Limited

Registered provider address: West Midlands House Ltd, Gipsy Lane, Willenhall
WV13 2HA

Responsible individual: Thomas Haire

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Chibuzo Otache, Social Care Inspector

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