

2722944

Registered provider: Beacon Childcare Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and is registered to provide care for up to four children with learning disabilities. The home registered with Ofsted in August 2024. This is the home's first inspection. Children, the manager and staff moved to the home together following a planned closure of another home within the organisation.

At the time of this inspection, two children were living in the home. They both contributed to the inspection and spent time with the inspector.

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 March 2025

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	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: not previously inspected

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children's experiences of living in the home are good. They are making steady progress from their starting points. A social worker spoke positively about the support provided to children.

Three children have moved in, and one child has moved on in line with their plan since the home opened. Children are at the heart of care planning. Two children were well supported by familiar staff when they moved from another home within the organisation. This helped the children to settle into their new surroundings. When children move on, their endings are well planned and take place slowly, which helps them to process change as they begin a new chapter in their life.

The home has a friendly and family-like atmosphere. Children benefit from living in a comfortable, well-maintained and spacious environment. The rear garden is large and provides lots of space for children to play outside. Plans are in place to purchase a trampoline for children to enjoy.

Children's wishes are central to their care. Staff understand children's methods of communication. They are patient and support children who are nonverbal to communicate their views, wishes and feelings using pictures and symbols. As a result, children make lots of choices. One child often chooses to watch their favourite cartoon in different languages.

Children are active and have lots of fun. They also experience new things, which promotes their well-being. Staff support them to take part in local community events, including cultural events, litter picking and preparing food hampers for a charity.

Education is prioritised and children's attendance at school is 100%. There are good relationships between home and school staff, which support children's educational progress.

Healthy lifestyles are promoted. Children's meals are prepared using fresh ingredients and children are encouraged to try new foods. With lots of encouragement, one child is eating more fruit, which supports their good health. In addition, staff are creative and work tirelessly to encourage children to brush their teeth. This is a big achievement for the children.

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

Children receive safe care. Staff understand the additional vulnerabilities of children with learning disabilities. They know the actions that they need to take to protect them. Staff are attentive and supervise the children in line with their plans. As a result, children do not go missing from home.

Children receive their medicines as prescribed from trained and competent staff. However, guidance to help staff do this consistently in line with best practice and guidance from a health professional is lacking. This is important due to children's complex needs.

Staff see children's behaviour as a form of communication, and unwanted behaviours are managed well. Staff know the children well and are skilled in using de-escalation techniques. They respond quickly when children are feeling frustrated or upset. This means that physical intervention is not required.

Staff support children to manage their feelings and emotions through conversations. This is supporting children to understand boundaries and acceptable behaviours. However, the language used by staff in one record is not supportive to the child.

Incidents rarely happen in the home. The manager scrutinises all incidents and talks to children to help him understand what happened. This shows children that they are valued. Any lessons learned are used to improve practice and support the continual development of the home.

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

The home is led by a suitably qualified and experienced manager. His vision and ethos are shared by the staff team. This shapes the positive culture of the home, which provides a nice environment for children to grow.

Staff speak positively about the manager and his leadership style. They say that teamwork is good and they enjoy looking after the children. The manager wants the best for children and his commitment to them shines through. Children smile, laugh and hug him when he enters a room. They are clearly fond of him.

The manager spends time with children and observes staff practice to help him understand children's experiences. However, other aspects of monitoring need to be strengthened to ensure that shortfalls and gaps in children's plans, risk assessments and medicine plans are identified and addressed. A new, more robust monitoring tool is being introduced to support improvement.

An independent person visits the home each month. Five visits have taken place since the home opened but the visitor has only spent time with the children on one occasion. This impacts on children's ability to share their views, wishes and feelings with someone who is independent of the home. Leaders gave assurance that they will address this.

Staff receive good-quality supervision sessions. They are productive and reflective meetings that are well received by staff. Staff complete a varied training programme, which includes training that is specific to the individual needs of the children. Regular team meetings also help staff to develop as a team.

The manager works hard to maintain relationships with external professionals to ensure that children's needs are met. Three external professionals spoke positively about communication with the home, which supports positive outcomes for children.

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 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— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the homes statement of purpose; 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)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that they have effective oversight of all aspects of the home to improve the quality of care provided to children. Children's records, including their plans, risks assessments and medicine records, must be accurate and up to date. In addition, information about children must be recorded in a way that is helpful to them and promotes their welfare as set out in the home's statement of purpose.	30 April 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.	30 April 2025

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans; understand the child's health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child's health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(i)(ii)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that clear plans and guidance are in place to help staff administer children's medicines in line with best practice and specific guidance from a health professional.	
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person— if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a)) In particular, the registered person must make arrangements for children to speak to the independent person regularly.	30 April 2025

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: 2722944

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Beacon Childcare Ltd

Registered provider address: Beacon Childcare Ltd, 28 Phoenix Business Park,
Avenue Close, Birmingham B7 4NU

Responsible individual: Mark O'Donnell

Registered manager: Depriye Stanley Goodluck

Inspector

Amy Richards, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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