

2726993

Registered provider: First Blue Healthcare Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private organisation. The home is registered to provide care for up to 2 children with social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, 2 children were living in the home. Both children were spoken with and shared their experiences with inspectors.

The manager registered with Ofsted in March 2024 and is suitably qualified.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 December 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	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 11 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/09/2024	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, one child has moved out of the home and another child has moved in. Both children experienced positive and planned moves. The child who remained living in the home was spoken with and offered support around the changes.

Children benefit from living in a welcoming and warm home. The games room offers space for relaxation and enjoyment. There are games for sensory input and entertainment options that children enjoy. Children's bedrooms are personalised and there are photographs throughout the home, reflecting their individual identities and promoting a sense of belonging.

The importance of education is promoted and the manager advocates well for children's educational needs. One child is in full-time education and their attendance has improved significantly since moving into the home. Opportunities for informal learning are promoted by staff for a child who is awaiting a suitable provision.

Staff have taken account of children's individual interests when planning activities, which has resulted in children having meaningful experiences. Staff are creative in finding opportunities for the children to try new things, which has led to an increase in their confidence and skills.

Overall, staff practice is child centred and they develop good relationships with children. However, when children have expressed views that would be supported by them having access to an independent person to speak to, referrals to an advocate have been delayed.

Robust independence planning is taking place for one child. This has resulted in them having increased confidence and skills, preparing them for adult life.

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

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's individual needs and children have made good progress from their starting points. Staff have a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and take a proactive approach to keeping children safe.

Children's risks are well understood and regularly reviewed and updated in plans. Plans are thorough and updated following incidents to reflect any changes or newly identified needs. As a result, staff respond efficiently and effectively to keep children safe.

When physical restraint is used, it is necessary and proportionate to keep children safe. However, some staff responses during incidents have been inconsistent. On some occasions, de-escalation techniques identified in children's plans were not utilised appropriately. Furthermore, consequences are not consistently proportionate or restorative.

in line with the home's therapeutic approach. Management oversight identifies these shortfalls; however, there is limited evidence of what action has been taken.

Children are listened to when they make complaints and their concerns are taken seriously. Complaints are investigated appropriately and children are informed of the outcome. However, learning and the actions taken in relation to staff practice have not always been addressed or evidenced.

Recruitment processes are robust and ensure that staff employed in the home are safe and suitable to work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager knows the children well and wants the best for them. Staff say that they enjoy working at the home and feel well supported by leaders and managers. Staff receive regular supervision that is focused on practice and the children's needs. There are plans in place to support the professional development of individual staff.

Leaders and managers understand the home's strengths and development areas. They recognise that there are shortfalls with consistency and the quality of record-keeping. However, there has been limited development around this since the last inspection.

The quality of management oversight is inconsistent. At times, identified areas for learning and development have not been followed up. On some occasions, management oversight is reflective and detailed. However, on other occasions, it lacks professional curiosity. There is a lack of evidence of action when management oversight has identified areas for development.

Leaders do not ensure that important conversations with children are consistently recorded. This has resulted in a lack of available information about what has been discussed with children, and their views and wishes are not being recorded. This has the potential to impact the quality of the care that children receive.

The manager has good working relationships with partner agencies, and external professionals said that communication is a strength of the home. The manager sustains a good level of communication with the local authority to effect good-quality planning and information-sharing. This has led to improved outcomes for the 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 home's 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)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that monitoring and review systems are robust and have good management oversight to drive continual improvements in the home. Identified actions must be evidenced appropriately to demonstrate lessons learned.	21 January 2026
The children's case records standard is that the registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))	21 January 2026

Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children's case records are updated to reflect their views and the discussions had with them. Children's case records should also include reflective management oversight.	
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Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that all children have access to appropriate advocacy support and, where possible, this should be provided by a person who the child chooses. Children in care are entitled to an independent advocate to advise them and ensure that they have the support needed to express their views, wishes and feelings about their care and lives. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 23, paragraph 4.16)

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: 2726993

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: First Blue Healthcare Limited

Registered provider address: Seighford Hall, Clanford Road, Seighford, Stafford ST18 9NL

Responsible individual: Helen Frewer

Registered manager: Sarah Avery

Inspectors

Menaka De Silva, Social Care Inspector
Sophie Coogan, Social Care Inspector

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