

2748977

Registered provider: Blue Elephant Childcare Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care and support for up to 3 children with emotional and social difficulties. It is part of a local organisation that owns several homes.

Three children were living in the home at the time of the visit.

The home and manager registered with Ofsted on 11 October 2023.

Inspection date: 26 February 2026

Date of last inspection: 21 October 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children benefit from strong, trusting and secure relationships with staff. A child who has recently moved into the home described the staff team as 'lovely' and said that being here feels like having another family.

Children's mental health needs are being appropriately addressed through therapeutic support and through regular, purposeful conversations between staff and children. Staff have begun to update children's plans to make them more comprehensive and to better reflect their individual needs, as well ensuring that they incorporate current concerns.

Staff actively involve children in decision-making within the home, including discussions about improvements to the environment, decor choices and the personalisation of their bedrooms. The home provides a warm, welcoming atmosphere and offers a setting that is consistent with a family environment.

A new child recently moved into the home. Assessments prior to moving in identified competing needs and potential risks between children, with some strategies in place to mitigate. While some aspects of these assessments were clearly articulated, other areas were not clear or detailed enough to support staff to address the risk.

The manager has a clear understanding of the risks associated with each child and has taken effective steps to strengthen staff knowledge since the last inspection. Oversight within the home has improved following the introduction of an additional senior member of staff to support the day-to-day running of the service. This increased managerial presence has contributed to more consistent oversight of records and staff practice.

There have been no incidents of children going missing from the home or any physical interventions used since the last inspection. Staff have identified and reported some low-level safeguarding concerns using the organisation's internal referral mechanism, and these concerns have been addressed and managed appropriately.

The manager and staff have developed a clear internet safety plan for one child, with structured steps to ensure they receive appropriate education about staying safe online.

A plan developed for one child in relation to specific risks is not sufficiently clear. It lacks clarity about the precise concerns associated with this behaviour and is therefore too vague to guide staff effectively.

The action plan developed following the last inspection has been used effectively to track and monitor the home's progress, and all identified actions have now been completed. Leaders and managers have taken appropriate steps to ensure that the previous requirements and recommendations have been met. However, a new requirement has been issued.

The manager has reflected meaningfully on the previous concerns highlighted regarding the home, leading to significant learning and resulting in improved practice and oversight. The manager knows the children well and maintains a strong presence within the home. She is confident in advocating on their behalf, and the additional support provided since her return has further strengthened her capacity to do so.

Staff confidence in their practice has improved, following learning from previous incidents. The manager and senior leaders have provided regular supervision and team meetings, which has supported the enhancement of overall staff development.

There are plans in place to continue recruiting staff to the home and to further develop the skills of the existing team, thereby continuing to enhance their practice. Additional training is also planned in relation to the specific needs of the children, for example, refresher training on grief and bereavement.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/10/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
24/04/2024	Full	Good

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— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that any plans and assessments involving risk clearly specify the exact concerns, so that staff can recognise future issues or identify when risks are increasing.	1 March 2026

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2748977

Provision sub-type: Children's Home

Registered provider: Blue Elephant Childcare Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 30, Chivenor Business Park, Barnstaple, Devon
EX31 4AY

Responsible individual: Cera Pudney

Registered manager: Alexandra Williams

Inspector

Helen Cushnie, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

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

© Crown copyright 2026