

2781144

Registered provider: Bayleaf Care Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home registered with Ofsted in August 2024 and is owned and operated by a private provider. It offers care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2024.

Inspection date: 17 September 2025

Date of last inspection: 8 April 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

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

The inspectors have 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 during this assurance inspection.

At the time of the inspection, one child was living in the home. Two children had moved out the previous day into another home operated by the same provider. This was a planned transition; the children had visited their new home on several occasions and were actively involved in preparing their bedrooms. There are currently no plans to admit new children to the home. This decision has been made collaboratively between the home and the placing authority.

Leaders and managers have reflected on the shortfalls identified at the previous inspection. Monitoring systems have been strengthened to improve the manager's oversight of the home. These systems have been effective in identifying areas where practice requires development. However, there remain inconsistencies in how staff implement learning. For example, when children make allegations, staff's responses are not always consistent, and delays in reporting to the appropriate individuals have occurred.

Behaviour management plans and risk assessments provide staff with guidance on how to support children when they experience emotional distress or behavioural challenges. Staff use the PACE model of care to de-escalate situations and support children effectively. Physical interventions have sometimes been used to reduce and manage risks. Following such incidents, staff and children routinely participate in debriefs, which offer opportunities to reflect and deepen understanding of the child's needs. Children receive weekly therapy sessions with an in-house therapist, who also provides consultation to the staff team in line with the home's statement of purpose. This therapeutic input offers emotional support to children and enhances staff's understanding of their emotional needs.

Relationships between children have, at times, been strained, resulting in incidents that have caused distress. While staff have often responded effectively to de-escalate behaviours, this has not always been the case, and some incidents have negatively impacted children's experiences of living in the home. Leaders and managers have addressed these concerns through broader care planning, which led to the decision to relocate two children to a different home.

Action has been taken to improve the home environment. The home is now comfortable and welcoming, with several areas for children to enjoy. Children's bedrooms are in good condition. The home has introduced chickens, ducks and a rabbit, reflecting the child's personal interests. Staff support the child in caring for the animals, which promotes enjoyment and helps develop a sense of responsibility.

Children have been encouraged to attend health appointments, including dental check-ups.

Staff promote access to education. Children's education, health and care plans have been reviewed, and staff have escalated concerns when necessary. When one child expressed dissatisfaction with their educational provision, staff worked collaboratively with the child's multi-agency team to explore alternative options. A bespoke education plan, incorporating animal care, has been developed for delivery in the home by a tutoring team. This reflects a child-centred approach and supports positive learning experiences.

Two of the requirements and the recommendation raised at the previous inspection have been met. A third requirement has been partially met and has therefore been restated.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/04/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/10/2024	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— manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; 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)(vi)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that staff have clear guidance to manage peer conflict and keep children safe. Allegations against staff must be responded to promptly, with information shared appropriately and external oversight initiated without delay. This requirement is restated.	31 December 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2781144

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Bayleaf Care Limited

Registered provider address: 7 Bankside, The Watermark, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 9SY

Responsible individual: Jamie Joinson

Registered manager: Taranjit Longdon

Inspectors

Becky Rutter, Social Care Inspector
Helen Dunn, Social Care Inspection Manager

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