

2792831

Registered provider: Begin to Blossom Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned. It provides care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties. At the time of this inspection, one child was living in the home. The inspector had the opportunity to spend time with the child during the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2024.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 March 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 13 November 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/11/2024	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

The staff are highly committed to offering the child a strong sense of belonging. The home environment is warm and made personal to the child. The child has strong relationships with staff and enjoys spending time with them in the home and during 'Costa catch up's'. The child said that 'staff are like family and the house is home.'

Staff have a thorough understanding of the child's individual needs and help the child to access all required health services. The staff are extremely committed to providing the child with highly individualised care and work closely with specialist health services. The registered manager shares research with staff and this helps them to further understand the child's changing needs. The care offered by staff has assisted the child to make sustained progress in many areas of their life. The child's parent said '[Name of child] is blooming because of the care staff provide.'

The child has made strong progress with their learning. They secured the skills that subsequently supported them to access and enjoy college. Staff are proud of the child's achievements and encourage the child to be proud too. Recently, the child experienced some changes with education. This means that staff are currently providing the child with daily educational activities. The registered manager is working with the local authority to advocate for the child and ensure that the child has access to suitable education options.

Staff work with the child to develop a highly personalised and creative 'getting ready for adult life' plan. This individual approach gives the child goals that offer innovative, varied day-to-day positive experiences to develop their independence skills. For example, the child has enjoyed producing a healthy recipe book, completing reflective journals, opening a bank account and ordering their medication.

The child has experienced a variety of new and exciting experiences, with support from staff. These include attending a Theatre club, experiencing their first concert and enjoying varied holidays. Such opportunities have provided the child with valuable life experiences which help build their confidence. Furthermore, the sensitive care offered by staff has assisted the child to feel proud to embrace their individual identity.

The staff and registered manager are committed to the child having individual family time arrangements. This has involved staff supporting the child's travel and offering the opportunity for a family member to have overnight stays at the home. The child treasured this opportunity and the chances to maintain important family connections.

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

Staff are highly invested in supporting the child to keep safe. This has helped the child build trusting relationships with staff. The child feels safe to seek out staff at difficult times. This allows staff to respond sensitively, and the support offered helps prevent some incidents from escalating. The child is also supported to have an advocate.

Consequences are rarely used. On the one occasion the child did receive a consequence, this was natural and proportionate in nature. The registered manager embraces the opportunity to work with the child's therapist and reflective discussions focus on encouraging staff to further adopt a relationships-based approach. The child's social worker noted that staff are always 'several steps ahead' in relation to considering how they can best meet the child's needs. This immensely committed approach from the registered manager and staff, provides the child with a sense of safety and security during difficult times.

Risk assessments are highly detailed, and plans are thorough. They provide staff with clear guidance, which they follow to reduce any risks to the child. On occasions significant incidents occur which have resulted in the child requiring medical support. Staff implement actions which help to keep the child safe, provide nurturing care and assist the child to access suitable treatment.

On occasions staff restrain the child to keep them safe. These physical interventions are proportionate and used as a last resort when all other de-escalation techniques have been unsuccessful. Following any significant incidents, staff talk to the child about what happened. This helps the child to understand why staff physically intervened and think about ways that could prevent this action being needed in the future. The child and staff appreciate the chance to reflect and learn.

Staff understand the procedures for escalating concerns appropriately. Leaders and managers have taken additional actions to ensure that staff have access to safeguarding leads, who they can approach if they have any concerns regarding staff practice. The registered manager has positive working relations with the local authority designated officer and attends all partnership meetings and training.

The home has an updated fire risk assessment, and the registered manager has progressed recommended actions in a timely manner. However, the child does not have a plan that provides staff with clear steps to take if they are required to evacuate the child from the home in an emergency.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The registered manager is extremely committed to ensuring that the child receives the highest quality of care. She is a strong role model and leader and is aspirational for the child. The registered manager ensures that the child is actively and meaningfully involved in recruiting new staff. Furthermore, in line with the child's wishes, new staff are encouraged to provide an introduction message and photo for the child prior to starting work in the home. This excellent practice is highly child centred and contributed to the child feeling valued.

External professionals consistently say that staff effectively communicate and work collaboratively to ensure the child is at the centre of practice and decisions. The registered manager advocates well on behalf of the child. Strong partnership working supports the child's development and progress.

The registered manager has a positive relationship with staff and values the staff team. Staff consistently report feeling well supported. The registered manager ensures staff's wellbeing within regular reflective supervision sessions and in day-to-day practice. Leaders and managers understand the benefits of the registered manager accessing effective supervision. As a result, arrangements are in place for the registered manager to have monthly independent supervision from an experienced practitioner.

Highly effective monitoring systems used by the registered manager support ongoing improvement. The registered manager uses learning from practice, research and feedback from others, to support staff development and drive the quality of care for the child. The registered manager has an excellent understanding of the home's model of care. She uses team meetings and support from the therapist to ensure that the child experiences highly attuned support from staff.

Staff are highly skilled in undertaking their roles. They receive high-quality training and development. New staff have detailed inductions to assist their understanding of the child's individual needs and their role in meeting these. One staff member said, 'The registered manager is a capable, supportive leader and has played a huge part in my professional development.'

Notifications have been sent to Ofsted, but the registered manager has not ensured that all have been sent in a timely manner. This has not directly impacted on the child's wellbeing but has delayed independent oversight.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff have access to a plan that provides them with clear steps to take if they are required to assist the child to be evacuated from the home in an emergency. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- The registered person should ensure that they notify Ofsted of safeguarding or welfare incidents relating to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.10)

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: 2792831

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Begin to Blossom Limited

Registered provider address: C/O Hilton Jones Hollinwood Business Centre,
Albert Street, Oldham OL8 3QL

Responsible individual: Simon Parrish

Registered manager: Gemma Parrish

Inspector

Gina Lightfoot, Social Care Inspector

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