

2821148

Registered provider: Maple Lodge Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately run and provides care for up to seven children who may have learning disabilities. At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2024.

Inspection dates: 1 and 2 April 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: 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

The first child moved into the home in March 2025. At the time of inspection, there were two children living at the home. The children contributed to the inspection.

The newly renovated home is well thought out and decorated to a high standard. Children's bedrooms are personalised to their taste. Bedrooms reflect children's personalities, which gives them a sense of ownership and belonging.

Managers have created a sensory room that holds considered resources that meet the children's needs. This gives the children a calming or stimulating environment, which can enhance their well-being and emotional regulation.

Staff understand the importance of education. The children have appropriate education provisions in place and staff support them to attend. One child had issues with being transported to school. The manager communicated this difficulty to the local authority. Following this, the staff transport the child without incident.

Staff hold children at the centre of their work. Managers and staff discuss children's progress, in regular key-worker meetings. Jointly, they review the care plan and routines and agree strategies to manage children's emotions and complex behaviours. This helps staff to have a good understanding of the children.

The children enjoy a range of activities at the home. One child enjoys dancing. Staff dance with them daily as part of their after-school routine. The staff are sourcing an appropriate dance school in the local area. This supports children to explore their interests and develop skills and hobbies.

The children have different communication needs. Staff use helpful communication tools to give the children a voice. One child was observed using sign language as well as picture exchange communication systems to share their wishes and feelings.

Professionals who are involved with children are complimentary about the care the children receive. One social worker said, '[Child's name] horizons have been broadened thanks to the managers and staff. Their life has been enriched since moving into the home.'

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

The children's guide is child friendly and gives children a sense of what it is like living at the home. The guide is personalised for each child and contains information to help children understand who to speak to if they are worried or if they need support outside the home.

Staff have undertaken the organisation's safeguarding training. They are confident in their responsibilities of reporting and escalating any child protection concerns, and understand the whistle-blowing policy.

Staff use appropriate boundaries and guidance consistently. Combined with structure and routines, these help the children to feel secure and safe. Staff have the skills to manage and de-escalate challenging situations when needed. As a result, there have been no incidents that required physical intervention.

The house is safe and secure. There are comprehensive audit schedules in place. A programme of safety assurance is overseen by the manager, who has an excellent understanding of what is required to maintain the home to a high standard.

Managers did not consider one child's identified risks when they moved into the home. A fully informed assessment of how the staff would meet the child's needs and the potential impact on other children at the home was not carried out. The risk management plans had not been devised, meaning that staff would not have guidance in how to respond to an incident.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced, suitably qualified and supported by a deputy manager and team leaders. Staff feel supported by the managers. One staff member said, 'It has been great learning from such professional and knowledgeable people.'

The manager ensures that children are protected by the organisation's recruitment practices. Staff are checked and assessed as suitable before any appointment is confirmed. These procedures contribute to the safety of children by preventing unsuitable adults from working with them.

Staff receive a detailed induction and training package. The manager ensures that staff are up to date with the home's mandatory training. In addition, staff have received bespoke training that is designed to support their understanding of the children's individual needs. Staff feel prepared and confident to provide the necessary care for the children as a result.

The manager is innovative, creating opportunities for herself and staff to develop their skills and knowledge through regular workshops. Topics include understanding children's attachment styles and trauma. These workshops have developed the staff's understanding and knowledge, which enhances the care they provide to the children.

The manager is a good advocate for children. She is confident to challenge placing authorities and professionals to ensure that children have access to the support and services that they require.

The manager has been instrumental in embedding a child-centred culture. Children receive regular praise and positive affirmation. This is strengthening children's emotional well-being and helping them to develop a positive view of themselves.

One child moved into the home in an emergency. Their risks were not fully known, understood or communicated to staff. Accepting children in an emergency without planning and preparation does not align with the home's statement of purpose.

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, ensure that children's risk assessments detail all the children's identified risks and the strategies in place to minimise these.	16 May 2025
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. the registered person must ensure that the home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its statement of purpose. (Regulation 16 (1) (6))	16 May 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: 2821148

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Maple Lodge Limited

Registered provider address: Argyle House, 3rd Floor, Northside, Joel Street,
Northwood Hills, Middlesex HA6 1NW

Responsible individual: Aruna Kukadia

Registered manager: Katarzyna Kuchno

Inspector

Sarah Cooper, Social Care Inspector

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