

SC047978

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run children's home. The home is registered to care for up to 5 children. There were 2 children living at the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager is registered with Ofsted and is suitably qualified.

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 June 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
---	-------------

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 24 June 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/06/2025	Full	Good
19/06/2024	Full	Good
06/06/2023	Full	Good
25/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Summary of findings

Children are cared for by the staff in the home, who know them well and provide consistent care and support. Staff build trusting relationships with children and place children's voices at the centre of their care practice. Consequently, children are supported to make good progress in all areas of their lives. Staff have a good understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. However, the manager has not consistently identified or analysed patterns and trends within incidents, which limits the team's ability to learn and adapt proactively. The manager leads by example and promotes high aspirations for children and staff. Despite this leadership, care planning could be strengthened to better support children's moves out of the home.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of the inspection, there were 4 children living at the home. The home is welcoming, spacious and tastefully decorated. Children's bedrooms are personalised, and children have their say in many aspects of the running of the home. Staff ensure that children develop a sense of belonging and stability.

Staff support children to have a range of opportunities that enrich their lives. Children are encouraged to pursue interests, engage in community activities and to have new experiences. This helps children to make memories, grow in confidence and have their achievements celebrated.

Children have a voice in how the home is run and they see this as their own home. Regular house meetings and discussions are used to seek children's views and wishes, ensuring that these are acted on and children feel listened to and involved in matters that affect them. One child said, 'This is the best home I have lived in.' The child also felt that ongoing care and support improved their emotional wellbeing and behaviour.

The staff have high aspirations for the children, and education is valued and actively promoted. Staff advocate effectively for children and support them to access learning opportunities, achieve qualifications and develop aspirations for the future. The on-site education provision supports children's engagement in learning, particularly during periods of transition.

Children have built safe, trusting and meaningful relationships with staff. Staff show children emotional warmth. This enables children to make progress in all areas of their lives.

There have been several moves into and out of the home since the last inspection. While staff have taken steps to plan children's move into the home, they have not consistently considered the impact that new arrivals have on those already living there. In particular,

a lack of thoughtful planning around how changes to the group dynamics affect existing children has resulted in increased instability. This has had a direct negative impact on the care provided for children, with some experiencing heightened distress and disruption, contributing to moves out of the home being earlier than expected.

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

Staff have a good understanding of children's vulnerabilities and are able to identify early signs of distress and respond appropriately. Detailed risk assessments provide them with thorough guidance, identifying known risks, triggers and strategies that are in place to reduce harm.

Children say that they feel safe and cared for. Staff talk to children on a regular basis about potential risks and use their specialist training to guide their practice to keep children safe. Staff demonstrate confidence in responding to serious incidents and work proactively with partner agencies to safeguard children and promote their wellbeing.

Staff take immediate action when children are missing from home. They show considerable commitment to locating children and work closely with other professionals to keep children safe and support them to return home. Staff keep in touch with children where possible and share information in a timely way. However, the manager has not identified patterns and trends in incidents of children going missing from care. This has the potential to hinder lessons learned.

When physical interventions are used, these are appropriate and proportionate. Staff support children during periods of crisis and use a range of strategies before considering physical intervention. Following incidents, children are offered opportunities to discuss and reflect on their experiences. However, staff reflections are often brief and focus primarily on describing events rather than critically evaluating practice. As a result, staff do not always clearly identify the lessons learned or how those lessons have informed their practice.

CCTV is used to monitor external areas of the home. However, the manager has not consistently demonstrated how the use of surveillance has been considered within children's plans and assessments. It also does not reflect how children's rights to privacy have been balanced against their safeguarding needs.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by an experienced and committed manager, who is ambitious for children and focused on improving their experiences and outcomes. The manager has created a nurturing culture in which children are cared for by a team of staff who understand their individual needs and experiences.

Staff say they feel well supported by the manager, who is visible and accessible to them. As a result, staff say that they enjoy working at this home, and staff turnover is low. In

turn, this ensures children are provided with consistent care by a team, whose members know them well.

The manager is a strong advocate for children. She challenges partner agencies appropriately when services do not meet children's needs and remains persistent in securing support. For example, when the manager encountered barriers to accessing mental health services for a child, she advocated on the child's behalf, ensuring that the child's needs remained central to professional decision-making.

Leaders and managers invest in the development of staff. For example, staff are encouraged to undertake qualifications and specialist training, including the home's therapeutic approach. This helps staff to understand the meaning behind children's behaviour and, in turn, supports children to understand and express their emotions. This is further strengthened through regular team meetings and regular supervision, ensuring that staff remain equipped to meet children's evolving needs.

The manager maintains good working relationships with parents and professionals. One parent described the staff as "fantastic", while commending the communication as effective and expressing confidence in the care provided.

Staff appropriately review risks and update plans in line with children's changing needs, and they share assessments and safety plans across the team to support consistent care. However, the manager has not consistently evaluated the impact of significant changes within the house group, particularly when new children move in. This lack of reflective practice means staff are not consistently supported to consider how shifts in group dynamics affect the relationships of the children currently living in the home, their emotional wellbeing and their sense of stability. As a result, some children have experienced increased uncertainty and disruption.

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— understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home. use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f)(h)) In particular, the manager must ensure that moves into and on from the home are thoroughly assessed, including the impact on the children who already live there.	18 September 2026
The registered person must ensure that— the privacy of children is appropriately protected; any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised. (Regulation 21 (a) (c)(ii)(iii))	18 September 2026

In particular, the manager must ensure that the use of CCTV and any other surveillance measures are necessary, proportionate and used in accordance with children's individual needs and risks.	
--	--

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that incident reviews, staff debriefs and management oversight are sufficiently evaluative and clearly identify what worked well, what could have been done differently and what learning has been identified. Records should demonstrate how learning is shared with the staff team and how it informs changes to practice, risk management and care planning. (Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', p.61, paragraph 13.4)

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: SC047978

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: Blue Mountain Homes Ltd, 21 Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8GX

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Gemma Kirby

Inspectors

Patrick Rowell, Social Care Inspector
Jibin Vakanil, 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 looked-after children, 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 www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

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