

SC047978

Registered provider: Blue Mountain Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately operated and provides care for up to five children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2024.

Inspection dates: 24 and 25 June 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: 19 June 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/06/2024	Full	Good
06/06/2023	Full	Good
25/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
01/06/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children live in a welcoming and well-maintained home that provides them with space, comfort, and opportunities to express their individuality. The home is furnished to a good standard and includes personal touches, such as photos and children's artwork, helping to create a sense of belonging. Children are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms to reflect their tastes and personalities. For example, one child has chosen a bright pink colour scheme, and another has installed LED lighting, demonstrating their freedom to make the space their own.

Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the children in their care, even when faced with challenges. One child, who has experienced social and emotional challenges, is being supported by a consistent and resilient staff team. The manager and staff have been strong advocates for this child, contributing to important assessments that have led to new diagnoses. This has enabled a better understanding of the child's needs. The manager is working proactively with the local authority to identify a provision that can offer the specialist support the child requires.

Another child experienced a period of emotional difficulty, which led to an increase in incidents. Staff responded effectively by implementing clear and consistent boundaries, which helped the child feel safe and supported. As a result, the child is now settled and has not been involved in any incidents for over six months. They are attending school full time and enjoying positive peer relationships.

Children who are new to the home benefit from a nurturing and welcoming environment. One child expressed that they feel safe and happy, stating they would like to remain at the home until adulthood. This child, who had not previously attended school, is now engaging in full-time education, representing significant progress.

Children's voices are heard and respected. Regular house meetings take place with clear agendas, and staff respond meaningfully to children's views and requests. This promotes a culture of participation and respect. Key-work sessions take place consistently and are generally of good quality. Some minor issues with language have been identified in some records, and the registered manager has a plan in place to strengthen the quality of these sessions further.

The quality of care planning is excellent. Planning is child centred and reflects the individual needs and preferences of each child. Children's time in the home is celebrated through a personalised 'flying the nest' document, which includes reflections on their journey, messages to incoming children, and memories of their time in the home. Children who have moved on continue to stay in touch with staff, reflecting the strength and depth of relationships developed.

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

Children are cared for in a safe environment where staff understand and respond effectively to risks. Since the last inspection, the quality and clarity of risk assessments have improved. These documents are reviewed regularly and generally reflect children's current risks well, although a small number require minor updates. The increased level of detail helps staff to better identify, manage and mitigate potential harm.

Physical interventions are used appropriately and only when necessary. Records are comprehensive and clearly outline de-escalation strategies attempted before intervention. Each incident includes a debrief discussion with the child, allowing them to reflect and recover. Notably, one child, who previously experienced a period of instability, has shown significant progress, with a marked reduction in the need for intervention.

Children know how to raise concerns and feel confident in doing so. Complaints are managed effectively by the leadership team. Children receive timely and appropriate responses, which reinforces that their views are taken seriously.

Safeguarding incidents in the home are well managed. Reporting is timely and detailed and provides a clear overview of events. All incidents include debriefs with the child and involved staff, which supports their emotional understanding, promotes reflection, and helps reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.

A recent medication error was managed swiftly and effectively. The registered manager responded promptly, holding a team meeting to provide a clear refresher and retraining for all staff. This demonstrates a culture of learning in the home and a commitment to ongoing improvement in safeguarding practice.

Procedures to respond to missing-from-home incidents are well embedded. Staff understand each child's potential vulnerabilities. Although missing-from-home incidents are infrequent, when they do occur, staff act quickly and appropriately. They carry out active searches, maintain communication with the child, and work collaboratively with external agencies to ensure a safe return.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is an experienced and committed leader who demonstrates a strong passion for improving outcomes for children. Since the last inspection, she has implemented positive changes in the home, contributing to improved standards of care. The manager is highly visible and accessible to staff and children, which supports the smooth day-to-day running of the home and fosters a culture of openness and trust.

The manager clearly understands the staff's strengths and development needs. She has established structured plans to support staff development and upskilling, which contributes to a stable and motivated workforce.

Staff speak highly of the support they receive from the manager and each other. Feedback from the team is overwhelmingly positive, with several staff describing the home as 'feeling like a family'. Relationships between staff and children are warm, respectful, and built on mutual trust. The home's positive atmosphere reflects the clear commitment of the staff to the children they care for.

Leaders and staff maintain strong working relationships with external professionals, including local authorities. Communication is described by professionals as 'timely' and 'effective'. The manager and staff are viewed as reliable and knowledgeable, with a clear focus on achieving the best outcomes for children. One social worker highlighted the collaborative approach of the team during a challenging period for a child, praising the team's availability, responsiveness, and consistent communication.

Staff receive regular supervision sessions and attend team meetings where both support and professional challenge are provided. This ensures that good practice is maintained and that staff are emotionally supported in what can be a demanding role. The leadership team acknowledges and sensitively manages the emotional impact of the work.

Management oversight of the home is effective. The home has well-established monitoring systems that provide clear scrutiny of practice. When issues arise, they are addressed promptly, with reflective learning used to improve practice and drive continued development across the team.

Innovative and thoughtful initiatives are evident throughout the home. A 'kindness calendar' encourages children to engage in charitable and community-focused activities. Daily positive message books for children and staff promote emotional well-being and help create a nurturing and optimistic environment.

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information about individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure that staff continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them. Where there are safeguarding concerns for a child, their placement plan, agreed between the home and their placing authority, must include details of the steps the home will take to manage any assessed risks on a day-to-day basis. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)

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 Limited

Registered provider address: 21 Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8GX

Responsible individual: Pradeep Manaktala

Registered manager: Gemma Kirby

Inspector

Lauren Barwell, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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