

# SC068991

Registered provider: M.J. Childrens Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This is a privately run home that can care for up to 5 children with social and emotional needs.

The home is led by a registered manager.

Since the last inspection, 2 children have moved into the home. At the time of inspection, 5 children were living at the home. The inspector spoke with 4 of the 5 children.

### Inspection dates: 9 and 10 March 2026

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account | <b>good</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

|                                                             |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 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:** 4 March 2025

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 04/03/2025      | Full            | Good                            |
| 25/04/2023      | Full            | Good                            |
| 17/05/2022      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 10/05/2021      | Full            | Good                            |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Children receive bespoke and individualised care. Staff create a family atmosphere where children receive emotional nurture and physical affection. Children's photos and awards are proudly displayed throughout the home. Staff and children share regular mealtimes together, as a family. This helps children develop a sense of belonging, and they benefit from long-term and stable placements.

Staff support children to do well in education considering their starting points when moving to the home. Two of the children have successfully reintegrated back into mainstream schools. Children enjoy going to school and have good attendance. For one child who is currently unable to attend school, staff are creative in their approach to home education, helping the child to engage and enjoy learning.

Children's health needs are well met by staff. Staff ensure children receive appropriate assessments and interventions. One child is currently being assessed by an educational psychologist, and other children are being assessed by a psychiatrist. This helps to ensure children get the support they need and improves overall health and wellbeing.

Staff support children to maintain relationships with those who are important to them. Two siblings have been supported to re-engage with seeing their mum. Staff are also supporting one child to see their girlfriend in a safe and positive manner. When family dynamics have been difficult, the manager and staff support children with these relationships. For example, one child has had the support of an advocate to ensure his wishes and feelings around contact with his family are considered.

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

Staff sometimes use physical intervention as a last resort to keep children and staff safe. The least force is used by staff in these situations. Debriefs for children and staff take place after each event, enabling reflection and emotional processing. The manager has oversight of all incidents, and learning is used to improve care practice.

Staff keep children safe. Risk management plans assess relevant risks to children and direct staff how to respond. However, not all children's plans contain enough detail about the physical affection children receive and safer caring practices. Additionally, not all information about children is recorded in a non-stigmatising way.

Staff have regular and meaningful discussions with children about how to keep themselves safe, including how to be safe online. Children are supported to understand and process their feelings and experiences. Staff help children to develop effective strategies that help them to manage strong emotions. For some children, this has contributed to a reduction in behaviours that are difficult to manage.

Medication is safely stored and administered. Staff help children to understand why they take their medication and how it helps them. However, there are gaps in the recording of medication administration, including occasions when children have refused to take their medication. This is an area for development.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The manager is committed to providing children with a natural, nurturing family environment where children feel cherished and loved. She knows children well and has a deep understanding of their needs. Staff feel well supported by her and admire her leadership. There is a stable staff team in place. Staff have positive relationships with each other and work well as a team.

Staff receive regular supervision from the manager. This includes pertinent topics such as the care of children, safeguarding and staff wellbeing. This also provides meaningful opportunities for staff to reflect on their practice, promoting their development and resilience.

Staff are well trained. They receive training in relation to children's individual needs, including autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. All staff have the relevant qualification or are in the process of completing this within the required timeframes. This ensures staff are competent in their role.

The manager has effective oversight and quality assurance systems in place. She has a good understanding of daily practice and the experiences of children. Internal and external audits are undertaken and any shortfalls are addressed. External feedback is also sought and used to develop the service.

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

### **Recommendations**

- The registered person should ensure that information about the child is always 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)
- The registered person should ensure that medicines are administered in line with a medically approved protocol. Records must be kept of the administration of all medication, which includes occasions when prescribed medication is refused. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35, paragraph 7.15)

### **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:** SC068991

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** M.J. Childrens Services Limited

**Registered provider address:** Arbutus House, 4 Loddington Lane, Belton in Rutland  
LE15 9LA

**Responsible individual:** Matthew Jones

**Registered manager:** Ganene Millward

## Inspector

Emma Dacres, Social Care Inspector

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