

# SC466786

Registered provider: The Beeches UK limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to four children with learning disabilities and other complex needs. Three children were living at the home, at the time of this inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in June 2024.

### Inspection dates: 11 and 12 February 2025

**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:** 5 March 2024

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/03/2024	Full	Good
07/07/2022	Full	Good
02/06/2021	Full	Good
29/10/2019	Full	Good

## Inspection judgements

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

Since the last inspection, one child has moved into the home and two children have moved on from the home. At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home. The inspector spoke with one child during the inspection.

Two children have moved on from the home. Their moves to semi-independent homes were well planned. Children's time at the home is celebrated with memory books and hampers. The manager recognised that one child's needs have changed and now needs a different home. This is being managed sensitively with professionals to ensure careful planning. Well-planned moves help children to move on successfully.

Children are making good progress and are happy living at the home. One child said, 'They don't treat me like a kid in care, they treat me like family.' Children have meaningful relationships with staff, who care about them.

Parents are impressed with the care that the children receive. One parent said, 'We are so lucky he found this lovely home the manager and staff are amazing.' Parents feel reassured that their children are happy and safe.

Two children have education places and are making good progress at school. One child is supported at school by staff from the home. One child who has been out of education for a prolonged period before moving to the home, is due to start tutoring imminently. The child has been accepted to start a Bricklaying college placement.

The children benefit from a wide range of activities, including visits to theme parks, going on day trips and playing snooker. One child plays football for a club. The children enjoy new and enriching experiences.

Staff encourage children to develop independence skills that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. One child is learning to budget and cook. One child is encouraged to spend free time with their friends. Children are building important independence skills and friendships that help them to prepare them for adult lives.

The home is welcoming and generally well maintained. However, the walls in communal areas require attention and painting. This detracts from an otherwise well-kept house.

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

One child said that they feel safe at the home. Significant risks for children are reducing. Children's parents are impressed with the safeguarding arrangements. The staff are appropriately trained. They understand and implement the safeguarding procedures.

Before moving to the home, one child was frequently going missing from home and at risk of exploitation. Since moving to the home, there has been no missing-from-home incidents and no concerns regarding exploitation.

One child needs specialist help following a safeguarding incident benefit from regular therapy. Staff have worked with the child to understand healthy relationships and online safety.

Behaviour support plans are thorough and individualised. A positive behaviour support trainer helps to create the plans. However, there are some inconsistencies in staff's approach to one child's behaviour. Although the manager is addressing this, a lack of a consistently is likely to be confusing for the child.

When physical interventions are used, these are necessary and proportionate. The manager debriefs staff following incidents. However, one child has complex communication needs, and the manager and staff have not explored different outlets for the child to express their feelings and emotions following physical interventions. Consequently, the child has not had an opportunity for his views to be explored and the safeguards afforded by this process are absent.

Staff use consequences as a response to unwanted behaviours. However, some consequences used are not meaningful, and the manager has not established their effectiveness or appropriateness.

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

The manager is experienced and suitably qualified. The manager is supported by a deputy manager. Staff benefit from the manager's knowledge and experience. The staff are motivated to provide good care to children.

The staff have good-quality training. The home's psychotherapist provides regular training for the staff. The staff said that they have thorough inductions and a wide range of face-to-face and online training. The staff either hold a level 3 diploma or are working towards the qualification within the agreed timeframe.

Staff have regular and effective supervision sessions. These help with their professional development. The manager is dedicated to helping the staff to develop and progress. The staff feel invested in.

A social worker said that she is very happy with the care provided for a child. She said that the staff understand the child's needs, the communication is good, and that the manager works well with them.

The manager is an excellent advocate for children. On one occasion, she advocated for a child not to be moved to an unsuitable home that would not meet the child's needs. The manager ensured that the child had an independent advocate. The manager's requests

were successful. The manager's intervention played a significant role in the child moving to a suitable home.

The manager and staff speak highly of the children. However, at times during the inspection the manager and staff used institutional and language that could indicate blame.

The independent person's reports are generally good quality and make appropriate recommendations. These help the manager to make improvements to the quality of care that children receive. However, parents are rarely consulted with and sometimes children are at school during their visits. This is a repeated shortfall that dilutes the safeguards of the process and means that opportunities for improvement could be missed.

## 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
<p>The registered person must prepare and implement a policy (“the behaviour management policy”) which sets out—</p> <p>how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children’s home; and</p> <p>the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home.</p> <p>The registered person must keep the behaviour management policy under review and, where appropriate, revise it.</p> <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—</p> <p>within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (2) (3)(c))</p> <p>In particular, the registered person must ensure there is a consistent approach to behaviour management, all children are consulted following physical intervention and consequences are meaningful and have managerial oversight.</p>	13 March 2025
<p>The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children’s home at least once each month.</p> <p>When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person—</p> <p>if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (1) (2)(a))</p>	13 March 2025

In particular the manager must ensure that she supports the independent person to get feedback from parents and visits when children are at the home.

This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.

## Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home is a nurturing environment that meets children's needs. In particular, ensure that the home is decorated to a good standard throughout. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that they lead and manage the home in a way that delivers the ethos, outcomes and approach set out in the home's statement of purpose. In particular, the manager and staff should avoid using institutional or blaming language when talking about or to children. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.4)

## 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:** SC466786

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

**Registered provider:** The Beeches UK limited

**Registered provider address:** S B C H House, 212 Ballards Lane, London N3 2LX

**Responsible individual:** Michelle Robinson

**Registered manager:** Samantha Thompson

## Inspector

Amy Miles, Social Care Inspector



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