

2538267

Registered provider: Vcare – 24 Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for one child who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

There was one child living at the home at time of the inspection.

The registered manager has recently resigned. A manager has been appointed and is in the process of applying to register with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 5 and 6 September 2023

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: 31 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/01/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children who live at this home build warm and trusted relationships with a small and consistent staff team. Staff listen to, and engage, with the children. This helps children to settle into the home quickly and feel an immediate sense of belonging.

Children are supported to move into the home in a sensitive way by staff. Children's individual needs are understood well by staff, even when they have moved in at short notice. This supports and promotes positive beginnings for children, who are given the opportunity to personalise the home and bedroom when they feel ready to do so.

Parents and other family members participate in the lives of children. Staff support children to see their loved ones even when they live a considerable distance away. Staff transport children and offer support when needed so that the time they spend with their families is as enjoyable as possible. The registered manager worked closely with one placing local authority, and this resulted in one child being successfully reunified with their family.

Staff speak to children using familiar words that are child-centred and easy to understand. Children contribute to their own care plans and are supported to attend any meetings that concern them. This means that children feel listened to and have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

There are clear boundaries in place and children respond well to the model of care and nurturing approach provided. Specialist advice and support are readily available in recognition of any unmet needs children may have. This promotes early intervention and early diagnosis, which leads to earlier and more successful interventions.

The registered manager and staff are able to unpick the barriers to children's learning and promote successful returns to education. Staff liaise with virtual schools and offer effective challenge when needed, to ensure that the correct provision is in place for children. This means that children have been supported back into education, continue to make progress and have aspirations for their futures.

Children enjoy activities such as swimming, martial arts and having holidays and days out. This has given children more opportunities to identify specific hobbies and interests of their choosing and helps them to develop their confidence and have positive experiences.

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

Children's well-being is a priority for all staff. Close working relationships with professionals ensures that there is a proactive response by those involved in the children's care that reduces harm and keeps them safe.

Risk assessments are completed at the point of referral and these inform suitability and decision-making. The registered manager's attention to detail and her professional curiosity ensure that the most suitable children move into the home. Children are protected, and they say that they feel safe as soon as they come to live in the home.

Care plans and risk assessments identify any risks and vulnerabilities children have and set out what action should be taken to minimise any risks. In addition, these assessments help to support the child to make positive choices and keep safe. Staff are attuned to children's anxieties and past traumas and are effective in de-escalating unwanted behaviours without the need for any form of physical intervention.

The environment of the home is free from hazards and maintained to a good standard. Children are supervised appropriately when undertaking activities both in the home and in the community. This is balanced against safely developing children's independence.

New staff are suitably vetted, and recruitment practice ensures that staff are suitable to work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager has recently submitted their resignation and is leaving. The provider has taken action and has ensured that there is managerial cover and oversight. A peripatetic manager has stepped into the role and will submit an application to register with Ofsted. This has ensured continuity for staff and children.

The peripatetic manager demonstrates confidence in maintaining stability and consistency in the home and for children in their care. They are proactive in ensuring the delivery of a model of good practice from the staff team that is individualised to the needs of children. This helps children to make good progress.

Staff have opportunities for continuous learning and development. Some are progressing their NVQ qualifications and others are promoted to more senior positions in the organisation. Regular reflective supervision and training opportunities underpin a skilled and experienced staff team.

Staff work in a collaborative way, which provides the children with the consistency they need to feel secure. A parent, by way of saying thank you, said, 'Words don't

really cut it. I just want to say how grateful I am to all of the staff for the great work they have all put in with my child.'

The peripatetic manager has effective systems of monitoring the quality of care and evaluates staff practice through a visual presence and through interactions with children. The peripatetic manager identifies areas of improvement and utilises the staff to make changes. This means that the manager has good oversight of the care and progress of children who live in the home.

Multi-agency working is strong and professionals are complimentary about the care provided in the home. The peripatetic manager recognises and challenges placing authorities when there are shortfalls in the care planning process. This in turn improves the lives of children and promotes better outcomes for them.

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: 2538267

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Vcare – 24 Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 10, Halifax Way, Pocklington Industrial Estate, Pocklington, York YO42 1NP

Responsible individual: Victoria Simpson

Registered manager: Emma Appleby

Inspector

Cath Sikakana, Social Care Inspector

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