

2649767

Registered provider: SV Care Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home provides care for up to three children with social and/or emotional difficulties.

The home was registered with Ofsted in January 2022. The registered manager left in August 2024 and the post is currently vacant.

There were three children living at the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 September 2024

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: 6 February 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/02/2024	Full	Good
28/09/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are cared for by a consistent and committed team of staff. Two children have lived at the home since the last inspection, and one child has subsequently moved in. The children are settled. Children know the staff well and feel comfortable talking to staff about their worries or concerns.

There is a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in the home. Children care about and spend time with each other. Staff use informal and formal discussions to talk with the children about the importance of developing healthy relationships and how to resolve difficulties that arise. There is a sister home in close proximity to this home and the children know one another and spend time together. Children enjoyed going on holiday over the summer and participate in a wide range of activities.

Children are supported to learn and access formal education. The staff team maintains positive links with local schools, and works with teachers and other professionals to address any difficulties that the children may experience. Two children have recently started college. Staff work with children to help them to become more independent. For example, older children are supported to learn how to cook and budget.

Children are registered promptly with local health services, and staff support children to liaise with healthcare professionals and attend their appointments. When necessary, staff work with professionals from the child and adolescent mental health services and the local authority to ensure that there are clear plans that promote the well-being of children.

Children are encouraged to maintain relationships with people that are important to them. The children are supported by staff to spend time with their friends and family at the home.

The home is well decorated and kept to a good standard. Children have their own en-suite showers. They personalise their rooms, and are encouraged to keep them tidy.

Children in the home are not always fully prepared for when new children move in or for children leaving. One child was not told that they were moving to a new home in advance. This resulted in a difficult ending for the child, who had lived at the home for over a year.

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

Children's needs, risks, strengths and vulnerabilities are well understood. The manager and deputy manager develop plans with the staff that clearly set out children's risks and how best to manage them. Strategies to support children are specific to the individual child.

The members of the staff team work well together. They have a good understanding of contextual safeguarding and the risks posed to children in the community. Staff are skilled at de-escalating difficult situations. Staff are all trained to use physical intervention, although this is rarely used.

If children are missing from the home, there is a well-coordinated response from staff. Staff maintain regular contact with children, family members and professionals to encourage children to return to the home.

Some children require a high level of supervision from staff in the home. When this is the case, doors may be locked and more staff are present in the home. Consideration is not always given to the impact this will have on other children living in the home in such close proximity.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The members of the leadership and management team know the children well, and work hard to make sure that the children feel cared for and valued.

The registered manager was promoted to be responsible individual within the organisation, and has cancelled her registration. However, due to changes in the recruitment plan, she will retain oversight of this home until a new manager is appointed.

Children's records are comprehensive, and records of incidents are detailed. The manager and staff work in partnership with professionals and family members.

The staff team is stable and staff recruitment and retention is a strength in the organisation. Staff spoken to fed back that they felt supported. The leadership and management team plans to implement a new plan of therapeutic training and support for staff. This is not yet in place.

Staff do not consistently have supervision or meet as a team, as outlined in the home's statement of purpose. This means there is not always a space for the staff to come together to reflect on what has gone well and where practice can be improved.

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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a))	18 October 2024
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 4(a)(b)(c)) In particular, this relates to staff supervision aligning in frequency and quality with the home's statement of purpose.	18 October 2024

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that they develop and keep under review a statement of purpose (regulation 16 and schedule 1). The information set out in the statement of purpose is an essential part of the process of agreement between the registered person and placing authority that a placement in the home is the right one for that child, and that the home will be able to respond effectively to the child's assessed needs. It is important that information about the home's therapeutic support and staffing is kept up to date and that support for the team, as set out in the statement of purpose, is in place. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.5)

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: 2649767

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: SV Care Services Limited

Registered provider address: 71 Knowl Piece, Wilbury Way, Hitchin, Hertfordshire
SG4 0TY

Responsible individual: Kate Rowe

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Matilda Clode, Social Care Inspector
Josephine Onwubiko, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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