

2707715

Registered provider: Wakefield Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by the local authority. It provides a therapeutic, trauma-informed approach to children's care through an integrated health and children's services staff team. The home provides care for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties. Two children were living at the home at the time of inspection.

The home was registered with Ofsted in March 2023. The manager has been registered with Ofsted since March 2023.

Inspection dates: 30 and 31 August 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: not previously inspected

Overall judgement at last inspection: not applicable

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
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Not previously inspected		
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Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Children living at this home make exceptional progress. There is a significant positive impact of the combined health and care support provided by the inclusion of clinical staff within the team. Staff have benefited from establishing their practice together before this home opened in March. This supported the trauma-informed ethos to become fully embedded.

Plans when children move into and out of the home are exceptionally well thought out. This paves the way for children settling into their home well. Children have returned to their home local authority after extensive time away, often in multiple different homes and settings. The home allows children to experience stability for the first time in many years.

Children experience constancy and commitment from the team. Staff consistently carry out their work in line with the home's preferred models of care and they research and apply best practice for individual children. Children are accepted for who they are, and their individuality is truly embraced, affording them opportunities to develop their identity and sense of belonging.

Innovative, child-focused and individualised education plans are developed for children. Children's emotional needs are prioritised, enabling them to achieve. This supports learning and progress in education. Both children are enrolled in school.

The relationships between health staff and care staff are seamless. The clinical team delivers recognised psychological therapies and assessment. This has a positive impact on children and their emotional well-being. The holistic care provided has resulted in one child no longer requiring prescribed medication for their emotional well-being.

The home strikes a good balance of minimising risks while maintaining the feel of a homely environment. Although there is the ability to divide the home into two parts, it does not feel like two separate homes. Bedrooms and communal areas are personalised to children's own tastes.

Relationships between children are carefully planned within the home environment. Children have their own safe space to receive individualised care. Opportunities to interact and socialise are encouraged when safe to do so and in children's best interests. Positive relationships between children have been cultivated and this has enriched their lives.

Reasonable adjustments are made for families and the support provided to families of the children. This has included adapting the children's guide and working with the clinical team to help families understand children's needs. Staff build trusting

relationships with the people who are important to children. This enables children to spend quality time with family. These important relationships enhance children's long-term life chances.

**How well children and young people are helped and protected:
outstanding**

Relationship-based, trauma-informed practice is at the heart of the love and care provided to the children. Staff are supported through the therapeutic framework to understand the driving factors behind children's behaviour and they consider their needs in relation to this. This supports a better understanding and more child-focused response to incidents. At times, this will have contributed to a reduction in incidents and, for one child, the severity of incidents has been greatly reduced.

Physical intervention is used only when necessary to keep children safe. It is used for the shortest amount of time needed. Conversations with children and staff take place afterwards and these are recorded appropriately, in a timely way.

Risk assessments are detailed, individualised, easy to follow and clearly show what actions staff should take. They are reviewed and updated regularly by the manager. The physical environment promotes the safety and security of children. This provides a good balance between feeling homely and the need for risk management.

Creative thinking is used to support the reduction of risks to children. This includes the manager utilising children's skills and interests by supporting children to develop and deliver training in subjects such as online safety. Bespoke training around children's specific needs is also offered. This empowers children to remain in control of their care while allowing them to develop a strong sense of safety.

When one child was missing from home, staff followed their plan to ensure that the child was as safe as possible. This included searching for the child in the local community and contacting those who are important to them. No other children have been missing from home. Independent return home interviews have always taken place when children have returned from being missing from home.

Children feel happy and safe at the home. Adults who work with the children are confident that children's safety is prioritised and that they are well cared for. Adults shared that children's needs are met well and they are provided with unwavering support to reach their full potential.

Staff have a comprehensive understanding of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children. They are confident in sharing concerns should they need to.

The recruitment process is values led. This ensures that staff are committed to the ethos and model of care provided by the home. The manager ensures that staff are suitably checked and vetted to reduce the risks to children's safety from unsuitable people.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The manager is passionate and ambitious. She is highly aspirational for the children in her care and carries out her corporate parenting responsibilities with tenacity and child-focused vision. She leads by example and the team mirrors her passion to get things right for children. Children who have been through significant trauma receive the love and care they deserve, in a home equipped to meet their needs.

The working partnership between staff in the home and external agencies is fully effective and well established. This provides integrated care for the children. When external agencies do not fulfil their statutory roles and responsibilities, this is effectively challenged by the managers.

The manager offers good support to her staff and has high expectations of the care provided to the children. She knows the children well and is attuned to their individual needs. This enables the manager and her team to provide effective, proactive care.

Staff are proud to work here. They feel well supported by the management, who are creative in the ways they support staff. This enables the team to offer consistently good-quality care to the children. Staff receive regular, reflective supervision that focuses on continuous practice improvement. Team meetings support this improvement by being a space to reflect and learn. Staff thrive through the inspirational leadership of the manager and assistant managers.

An extensive training package completed by staff prior to the home opening ensured that the team is highly skilled in therapeutic parenting. Additional, bespoke training has been offered through external agencies, as well as clinical staff as the need for this arises. This enables staff to be confident and has empowered them to take appropriate and decisive action when children need this.

Staff, including casual workers, are enrolled onto the relevant qualification as soon as their employment commences. Appropriate workspace is provided for their qualification to be completed, time is allocated for work and meetings with the tutor for support are prioritised. A culture of learning and development is fully embedded.

The manager, with the support of the assistant managers, has striven to make positive relationships in the local community. This has involved speaking with neighbours and holding an open day before the home opened. This supports children becoming a part of their local community and developing a strong sense of belonging.

There are highly effective systems of monitoring in place that enable the manager to have a thorough understanding of what is happening in all aspects of the home. Effective consultation is held with partners and feedback is sought and evaluated to inform development plans.

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: 2707715

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Wakefield Council

Registered provider address: County Hall, Bond Street, Wakefield WF1 2QW

Responsible individual: Cheryl Whitehouse

Registered manager: Samantha Walshaw

Inspectors

Joanna Beal, Social Care Inspector

Honor Hamshaw, Social Care Inspector

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