

1272220

Registered provider: Tees-Valley Care Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It is registered to provide care for up to two children who may experience emotional and/or social difficulties.

The registered manager left the home in December 2021. A new manager is now in post and has submitted her application to register with Ofsted.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection date: 5 January 2022

Date of last inspection: 24 May 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has sustained effectiveness.

There are two children currently living in the home. The children continue to make good progress in all areas of their development. They enjoy a range of activities, including going to the beach and for meals out. They feel a sense of belonging because of the efforts made by staff to make occasions such as Christmas and birthdays extra special.

There has been several significant changes to the staff team since the last inspection. These include a number of newly appointed staff and a new manager. The staff are forming positive relationships with the children and developing their practice as a team. Children initially found these changes difficult to comprehend. Managers recognised this and put support plans in place to help the children to settle. The children continue to enjoy good relationships with the staff they know, and they are building relationships with new staff.

The new manager feels well supported in her role. She receives supervision and support from the responsible individual and the clinical psychologist. Some of the supervision sessions are not always recorded, and a record of the outcome of these sessions is not kept by the manager. This does not ensure that the support provided to the manager is accurately documented to help her to develop her skills.

Leaders and managers continue to develop monitoring systems. Extra training is helping managers to make sure that these systems are used effectively. Managers have already made some changes to monitoring systems in response to requirements set at the last inspection. For example, they have developed a new form to make sure that all recruitment checks are completed. This oversight better ensures that managers have the information that they need to verify the suitability of staff to work with the children.

Since the last inspection, managers have taken steps to improve recruitment practice. These changes ensure that all checks are carried out before new staff start work. The children are involved in helping to recruit new staff. This helps to ensure that children are involved in the running of their home.

The staff use a nurturing approach and therapeutic techniques to support the children when they are in crisis. As a result, physical intervention is only used as a last resort to protect children from immediate harm. The staff have opportunities to discuss and learn from incidents. This helps to reduce future risks to children.

Leaders and managers have not addressed a requirement from the last inspection. The information in one child's local authority care plan remains out of date. This information may cause confusion for the staff regarding the child's individual needs. The children make their own in-house care plans to make sure that the staff know their likes and dislikes. This approach means that children are able to contribute to their plans and ensures that they feel listened to.

Leaders and managers ensure that there is good communication with other professionals. They work closely with a range of professionals, including psychologists, medical practitioners, psychiatrists and social workers. This means that the children have the support they need.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/08/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
16/04/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
23/10/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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, 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 maintain records ("case records") for each child which—</p> <p>include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child;</p> <p>are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b))</p>	31 March 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that a record of all supervision is kept for staff, including the manager. The record should provide evidence that supervision is being delivered in line with regulation 33 (4)(b). (Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.3)
- The registered person should ensure that a note of the content and/or outcomes of supervision sessions is kept and ensure that both the person giving the supervision and staff member have a copy of the record. (Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.4)

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: 1272220

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Tees-Valley Care Limited

Registered provider address: PO Box 547, Middlesbrough TS1 9HG

Responsible individual: Daniel Johns

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Jamie Richardson, Social Care Inspector

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