

1249264

Registered provider: Radical Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care for up to four children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager post has been vacant since January 2023. A new interim manager was appointed in August 2023. They are yet to apply to be registered with Ofsted.

One child was living at the home at the time of this inspection and the inspector spoke to the child.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 August 2023

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 requires improvement to be good

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 18 May 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:

Following a full inspection on 18 May 2023, a decision was made to restrict admissions to the home. A monitoring visit took place on 27 June 2023 and a case review was held. The concerns that led to the restriction of accommodation were no longer evident and the notice of restriction was allowed to expire.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/05/2023	Full	Inadequate
24/05/2022	Full	Good
22/06/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/04/2021	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, the staff team has been stable. This has led to consistency for the child. This has supported the child to develop positive relationships, which were evident throughout the inspection. Staff and the child have enjoyed a number of days out and activities together, such as hill walking, going to fairgrounds, swimming and yoga.

The manager and staff provide the child with individualised care. The child's plans are understood and followed by staff. The manager advocates on behalf of the child to ensure that their needs are met and that they receive consistent care. The manager and staff talk with positive regard for the child and have aspirations for the child's future.

The staff listen to the child's views, wishes and feelings. This helps the child to feel a sense of value and belonging. The manager ensures that the child's wishes are actioned and are central to the child's care planning. The child's social worker told the inspector that the care provided to the child was good.

The child is in good health and most of their health needs are met; however, the child should be registered with a dentist, and should receive a looked after children's annual health assessment. This would guide the manager and staff to support the child to address any areas of concern.

The child has finished their formal schooling; however, the manager has secured funding to support the child with their English and mathematics throughout the school holidays. The child is working with education tutors daily to enhance their knowledge, ready to resit exams.

The child is supported to keep in touch with and see people who are important to them. Plans are in motion for the child to move closer to home. This supports the child to maintain their sense of identity and belonging.

The home has recently been redecorated and furnished to a good standard. The child is encouraged to have a choice in the decoration of their home and bedroom so they can personalise their own space. The child said, 'I will miss my bedroom when I leave, I love it.' The child has a pet rabbit, and the staff support them to care for it well.

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

There has been one safeguarding concern since the last inspection. This has been managed well. The manager worked closely with the local authority, police and a specialist mental health service to compile a safety plan for the child. The child's social worker told the inspector that they felt the incident was managed well, they

had no concerns in terms of staff's safeguarding practice and they are regularly kept updated about the child.

The three-stage risk-management plan for the child is regularly reviewed and updated and is understood and followed by staff. The plan provides staff with direction around how to reduce and manage any risks to help keep the child safe.

Staff are trained in physical intervention and de-escalation techniques. Physical intervention is used as a last resort. Staff are able to use effective de-escalation strategies, so they have not had to physically intervene to keep the child safe.

It is rare that the child goes missing from the home. When they do, staff search for the child and follow the child's protocol. The child is welcomed back into the home and offered an independent return home interview. However, this should be completed within 72 hours of the child returning to the home.

Staff talk to the child to help the child understand their thoughts and feelings. They also help the child to reflect on any incidents or risk-taking behaviours. The manager takes appropriate action and communicates effectively with other professionals to ensure that the child is safe living in the home.

The staff understand and are confident in following procedures to protect the child. The staff complete training around safeguarding and additional training around risks such as self-harm, child sexual exploitation, county lines and online safety. However, they would benefit from receiving training around substance misuse.

The home is set in a beautiful location with plenty of space inside and out. The home is clean, tidy, in good repair and free from hazards.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The home is currently undergoing a change in management. There has not been a registered manager in post since January 2023.

A new manager has been in post since the beginning of August 2023 and is currently receiving a handover from the interim manager. The new manager holds the relevant management qualification and experience to manage a children's home and will be applying to register with Ofsted.

Staff receive regular reflective supervision, appraisals and training in line with procedures. This allows the manager and staff to reflect on their practice to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the child. A staff member told the inspector that they feel able to express any concerns and share ideas and feel supported and valued by the management team.

A recent review of the premises by the manager lacked up-to-date feedback from safeguarding partners to inform the risk assessment to ensure that the home's location remains suitable and safe.

The manager recently completed a review of the quality of care; however, this was not evaluative and did not provide analysis regarding the care provided to the children living in the home at the time. The report would benefit from feedback from the child, parents, staff, professionals and stakeholders.

The manager understands the service's strengths and areas for development. She has a development plan that focuses on improving the care for the child. The manager's monitoring system helps her track patterns, trends and progress. The quality tracker allows her to capture any shortfalls as they arise so that she can take swift action to address them.

The manager has not met two of the 13 requirements from the previous inspection. These two requirements have been restated.

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 health and well-being standard is that—</p> <p>the health and well-being needs of children are met;</p> <p>children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff help each child to—</p> <p>achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child’s relevant plans. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(i)) This requirement is restated.</p> <p>This specifically relates to children being registered with a dentist and having a looked after children’s annual health assessment.</p>	<p>24 September 2023</p>
<p>The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months.</p> <p>In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating—</p> <p>the quality of care provided for children;</p> <p>the feedback and opinions of children about the children’s home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and</p> <p>any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children.</p>	<p>24 September 2023</p>

<p>The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (5)) This requirement is restated.</p>	
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Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff have the relevant skills and knowledge to be able to help children understand, and where necessary work to change, negative behaviours in key areas of health and well-being such as, but not limited to, nutrition and healthy diet, exercise, mental health, sexual relationships, sexual health, contraception and use of legal highs, drugs, alcohol and tobacco. This is specifically in relation to staff receiving training around substance misuse. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35, paragraph 7.18)
- Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care sets out the steps local authorities and their partners should take to prevent children from going missing and to protect them when they do go missing. Children's homes should have regard to the relevant aspects of this guidance. Specifically, ensure that return home interviews take place within 72 hours. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.25)
- When establishing the home, the registered person must ensure that it is suitably located so that children are safeguarded effectively and can access services to meet needs identified in their relevant plans (see regulations 12(2)(c)). Under regulation 46, the registered person should review the appropriateness and suitability of the location and premises of the home at least once a year. The review should include the identification of any risks and opportunities presented by the home's location and strategies for managing these. Providers should refer to the non-statutory advice about the location assessment process: Children's homes regulation amendments 2014: Advice for children's homes providers on new duties under regulations that came into effect in January and April 2014. The registered person should seek feedback from safeguarding partners to inform the review of premises. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.1)

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: 1249264

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Radical Services Limited

Registered provider address: 2 The Calls, Leeds LS2 7JU

Responsible individual: Helen Sansom

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Julie Elder, Social Care Inspector

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