

# Wholistic Fostering Ltd

Wholistic Fostering Limited

34 Brook House, Brook Street Business Centre, Brook Street, Tipton DY4 9DD

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this independent fostering agency

A small private company operates this fostering agency. The agency currently has seven children placed with foster carers. Seven households with nine carers have been approved.

The registered manager is appropriately qualified and experienced.

### Inspection dates: 22 to 25 January 2024

**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      good

The independent fostering agency provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 5 August 2019

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Children make progress in all aspects of their health, education, emotional, social and psychological well-being. This is because their foster carers are committed to providing stable and nurturing homes for children to thrive. Children enjoy a positive range of experiences and opportunities that support them to develop and achieve.

Children's health needs are met. Foster carers engage well with health professionals and act on their advice. For example, foster carers work well with health professionals to ensure that children who are diagnosed with conditions such as autism, ADHD and foetal alcohol syndrome have the support they need. One foster carer has supported the children that they care for with their very specific attachment behaviours. As a result, the children have developed strong and healthy relationships with their foster carer.

Children's education is prioritised. As a result, all of the children are in education. One child's request to move from a special school to a mainstream school was supported by their foster carer and the agency that advocated on behalf of them. As a result, the child is now enjoying, and doing well in, their new school. Furthermore, two children receive extra tuition for English and Mathematics and, as a result, one child is in top sets at school.

Children are encouraged to have their own interests and hobbies. For example, children enjoy going to the theatre and attending clubs such as drama classes and karate. Children have been abroad on holiday and have enjoyed experiencing destinations such as Germany, Tenerife and Jamaica. These opportunities create lifelong memories and support children to explore different cultures and religions.

Foster carers understand the importance of children keeping in contact with people who are important to them. Consequently, family time is promoted. One foster carer supports a child to have family time in the fostering household. This means that positive relationships have been developed between adults and role modelled to the child.

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

Safer caring plans and risk assessments for the children are detailed, and are reviewed regularly in light of changes or emerging concerns. As a result, foster carers know their children and any associated risk well. Furthermore, the children are helped to understand risk and to take age-appropriate responsibility for their safety.

Managers ensure the safe recruitment of foster carers. Checks are thorough, detailed and monitored by the registered manager, who signs off stage one of the application process. This detail is also seen in the recruitment of staff and panel members to ensure that all adults are safe to work with children.

There is continued monitoring of foster carers' suitability for the fostering role. Twice-monthly home visits and at least one unannounced visit per year provide an opportunity to ensure that foster carers' homes are safe and secure and the children are happy.

Safeguarding practice is good. Since the last inspection, there have been three notifiable events. The concerns raised were responded to quickly and appropriately. Children do not go missing and there are no concerns in respect of self-harm, child sexual exploitation or radicalisation. The foster carers are well equipped to identify and manage these concerns should they arise as a result of training and development opportunities. Foster carers' practice benefits from training in therapeutic de-escalation techniques underpinned by a secure base model.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The registered manager is suitably skilled, experienced and qualified. She makes good use of her social work experience and the responsible individual's personal experience of foster care, to create a strong ethos that ensures that children have a positive experience of fostering that helps them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The registered manager has good monitoring systems in place and has made good use of the agency's chosen systems to improve these. This has been particularly good for tracking and monitoring the children's outcomes and progress.

The registered manager ensures that she has monthly supervision with a suitably experienced external person. The registered manager has a passion for her own learning and development and makes sure that her own supervision is reflective and considers research.

Foster carers benefit from training on a monthly basis. New foster carers complete induction training as part of their assessment period to prepare them for fostering.

The fostering panel provides a good level of independent scrutiny of the decision-making of the agency. The panel carries out a thorough quality assurance of assessments. An experienced panel chair provides clear reasons for the recommendations made.

The agency decision-maker is independent. She is also able to cover the registered manager should this be necessary as an interim arrangement. This is reflected in the agency's policy.

Foster carers speak positively about their fostering journey and the support that they receive from staff and the registered manager, who they described as a strong advocate for children.

## **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 Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the national minimum standards.

## **Independent fostering agency details**

**Unique reference number:** SC476942

**Registered provider:** Wholistic Fostering Limited

**Registered provider address:** 34 Brook House, Brook Street Business Centre,  
Brook Street, Tipton DY4 9DD

**Responsible individual:** Michael Dennis

**Registered manager:** Patricia Nettleford

**Telephone number:** 01922 622233

**Email address:** [info@wholisticfostering.co.uk](mailto:info@wholisticfostering.co.uk)

## **Inspector**

Stacie Sharpe, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2024