

# Voyage 1 Limited Voyage (DCA) North Derbyshire

### **Inspection report**

48 Heath Road Holmewood Chesterfield S42 5SW

Tel: 07872050339 Website: www.voyagecare.com Date of inspection visit: 11 May 2021 12 May 2021 13 May 2021 18 May 2021

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Good

### Ratings

### Overall rating for this service

Is the service safe?	Good •
Is the service effective?	Good •
Is the service caring?	Good •
Is the service responsive?	Good •
Is the service well-led?	Good •

### Summary of findings

### Overall summary

#### About the service

Voyage DCA (North Derbyshire) is a domiciliary care agency providing personal care for younger adults with a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder, living in their own individual flats or within a shared supported living setting. At this inspection there were nine people receiving personal care from the service, including some who were also living with a physical disability or mental health needs.

Where people were living in a shared supported living setting, this provided individual bedroom accommodation with ensuite facilities, along with shared communal spaces, such as kitchen, lounges, dining and garden areas. Dedicated staff sleep-in facilities and secure storage facilities for people's confidential personal information were also provided for use when needed, in accordance with people's agreed care needs.

Not everyone using the service received personal care. CQC only inspects where people receive personal care. This is help with tasks related to personal hygiene, mobility, health and nutrition. Where they do we also consider any wider social care provided.

#### People's experience of using this service and what we found

The provider's staffing, risk management, medicines and safeguarding arrangements, helped to ensure people's safety within the service. Recognised hygiene measures were followed for the prevention and control of infection. Health incidents and near misses were routinely monitored and analysed, to help inform or improve peoples' care and prevent any further reoccurrence when needed.

There were effective arrangements for the assessment and delivery of peoples' care in line with nationally recognised standards and the law. People were supported to maintain or improve their health and nutrition; through timely consultation and information sharing with relevant external health professionals and care providers, when needed for people's care.

Staff were trained and supervised for their role. People were supported to have maximum control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible. The provider's related policies and systems supported this practice.

The service applied the principles and values of Registering the Right Support and other best practice guidance. These ensure that people who use the service can live as full a life as possible and achieve the best possible outcomes through the promotion of choice and control, independence and inclusion. People's support focused on them having as many opportunities as possible for them to gain new skills and become more independent.

People received care from kind, caring staff who knew people well and how to communicate with them. Nationally recognised care values were promoted to ensure people's equality, rights and inclusion in relation to their care and daily living arrangements.

People received timely, individualised care, which they were happy with. Arrangements for end of life care were effectively considered, to help ensure people's dignity, choice and comfort in any event.

The provider was meeting the accessible information standard, to enable people to understand and agree their care in accordance with their assessed needs. Complaints information and handling arrangements helped to ensure and inform any care or service improvements needed.

The service was well managed, led and regulatory requirements were being met. The registered manager and staff understood their role, responsibilities and legal requirements for people's care. The provider operated effective governance arrangements for the quality and safety of people's care. Effective management arrangements were established for communication, record keeping and information handling at the service. Relevant partnership working was ensured for people's care and daily living arrangements

For more details, please see the full report which is on the CQC website at www.cqc.org.uk

#### Rating at last inspection

This service was registered with us on 25 June 2019 and this is the first inspection.

#### Why we inspected

This was a planned inspection. The service met with the characteristics of Good in all areas.

#### Follow up

We will continue to monitor information we receive about the service until we return to visit as per our reinspection programme. If we receive any concerning information we may inspect sooner

### The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?	Good •
The service was safe.	
Details are in our safe findings below.	
Is the service effective?	Good •
The service was effective.	
Details are in our effective findings below.	
Is the service caring?	Good •
The service was caring.	
Details are in our caring findings below.	
Is the service responsive?	Good •
The service was responsive.	
Details are in our responsive findings below.	
Is the service well-led?	Good •
The service was well-led.	
Details are in our well-Led findings below.	



# Voyage (DCA) North Derbyshire

**Detailed findings** 

## Background to this inspection

The inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the Act) as part of our regulatory functions. We checked whether the provider was meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Act. We looked at the overall quality of the service and provided a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

Inspection team This inspection was carried out by a single inspector.

#### Service and service type

This service is a domiciliary care agency. It provides personal care to people living in their own flats or supported living setting, so that they can live as independently as possible. People's care and housing are provided under separate contractual agreements. CQC does not regulate premises used for supported living; this inspection looked at people's personal care and support.

The service had a manager registered with the Care Quality Commission. This means that they and the provider are legally responsible for how the service is run and for the quality and safety of the care provided.

#### Notice of inspection

This inspection was announced. We gave a short period notice because we needed to be sure that the registered manager would be in the office to support the inspection; and to enable them to obtain people and relatives consent for us to contact them about their experience of the service.

Inspection activity started on 6 May 2021 and ended on 18 May 2021 We visited the office location on 6 May 2021.

#### What we did before the inspection

We reviewed information we had received about the service since initial registration. We sought feedback from the local authority and professionals who work with the service for people's care. We used the information the provider sent us in their provider information return (PIR). This is information provider are required to send us with key information about their service, what they do well and any improvements they plan to make. We used all of this information to plan this inspection.

#### During the inspection

We spoke with three people who used the service and three relatives about their experience of the care provided. We spoke with 7 care team staff including, one senior and the registered manager.

We reviewed a range of records. This included four people's care plans, medicines records and a range records relating to the staffing and management of the service. This included staff recruitment and training records, care and safety policies, meeting minutes and the provider's checks of the quality and safety of people's care.

### Is the service safe?

# Our findings

Safe – this means we looked for evidence that people were protected from abuse and avoidable harm.

This is the first inspection for this registered service. This key question has been rated as Good. This meant people were safe and protected from avoidable harm.

Systems and processes to safeguard people from the risk of abuse

- People were protected from the risk of harm or abuse by the service.
- Staff knew how to recognise and report if they suspected or witnessed harm of abuse of any person receiving care. All were confident to do so, if needed.
- People were given information in a way they could understand to help them keep safe, both within the service and local community.
- The provider followed the Herbert protocol to inform and support people's individual safety when needed. This is a joint agency/authority, early intervention and risk reduction scheme to help vulnerable people to keep safe, including those who are at risk of going missing.
- People told us they felt safe and relatives were confident people were safe within the service. All knew how to raise any safety concerns if they needed to.
- One person told us, "I feel safe most of the time but I can get stressed; When that happens, the staff look after me; they remind me what I need to do, to keep safe."

### Staffing and recruitment

- Staff were safely recruited and effectively deployed for people's care.
- The provider's related policies, workforce planning and management measures were sufficient to ensure this. For example, actual staffing hours exceeded people's care hours commissioned by the local authority, to ensure sufficient cover in the event of staff sudden absence, such as sickness.
- Staff described safe arrangements for their recruitment and deployment. There were also opportunities for people to be involved in selecting new staff applicants for their individual care.
- Staff recruitment records we looked at showed staff were safely recruited, checked and vetted in line with nationally recognised guidance. This helped to ensure they were safe to work with vulnerable adults before they commenced employment at the service.
- People, relatives and staff felt staffing arrangements were safe and sufficient. One person's relative said, "Staffing is generally consistent, which is important for my relative's wellbeing." A staff member told us, "Staffing is well planned, we have consistent teams; We also have opportunities to shadow other people's care, so we can get to know people before we provide any occasional cover in the event of their usual staff absence."

#### Using medicines safely

- People's medicines were safely managed when needed to ensure they received their medicines when they should.
- Staff responsible were trained, checked and kept informed through nationally recognised policy guidance,

to support people to take their medicines safely when needed.

- People were supported to access their GP or registered medical officer for the purposes medicines reviews when needed. The registered manager ensured STOMP principles were followed for people's safety when needed, in line with nationally recognised guidance. STOMP stands for stopping over medication of people with a learning disability, autism or both with psycho-trophic medicines, whilst helping them to stay well and have a good quality of life. It is a national project involving many different organisations which are helping to stop any over-use of these medicines.
- People and relatives said staff understood the arrangements for people's medicines. This included how people preferred to take them.

### Preventing and controlling infection

- We were assured that recognised government guidance concerned with the prevention and control of infection and for COVID-19, was understood and followed for people's safety.
- Staff understood their related role and responsibilities for people's safety and their own; and they were provided with the information, equipment and support they needed to ensure this. For example, support to access regular and routine testing for COVID-19 and the provision and correct use of personal protective equipment such a disposable gloves, masks and aprons.
- People were effectively supported in a way they could understand, to help maintain safe levels of hygiene and to minimise any risks to their safety from infection and from COVID-19. This included support to access routine testing for COVID-19 when needed.
- A relative said, "Staff make sure [person] keeps up to date with cleaning, laundry and how to stay safe regarding COVID-19."

### Assessing risk, safety monitoring and management

- The provider's risk management strategies, including relevant emergency contingency planning for people's care, helped to ensure their safety.
- Risks to people's safety were assessed before they received care and regularly reviewed. Staff understood people's related care needs and steps they needed to follow for people's safety. This information was clearly recorded in people's individual care plans, which were revised when needed.
- Management risk assessments were in place, to ensure safe service operation for people's care. These were regularly reviewed against relevant nationally recognised guidance for people's safety. For example in relation to COVID-19 prevention and control measures; or to ensure effective contingency measures in the event of any for-seeable emergency, such as a significant staff shortage.
- Staff we spoke with understood the procedures they needed to follow in relation to safe lone working or in the event of any emergency, such as a health incident or adverse weather conditions.

### Learning lessons when things go wrong

- We found effective management arrangements for the ongoing monitoring, analysis and review of any significant incidents or concerns relating to people's safety. This helped to identify any trends or patterns that may inform or improve people's care for their safety.
- When required to do so, the provider had notified us of any significant incidents that happened within the service, to help us check people's safety.
- There had been no safety incidents resulting in any person's harm or injury attributed to service failures within the last 12 months.

### Is the service effective?

# Our findings

Effective – this means we looked for evidence that people's care, treatment and support achieved good outcomes and promoted a good quality of life, based on best available evidence.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated Good. This meant people's outcomes were consistently good, and people's feedback confirmed this.

Assessing people's needs and choices; delivering care in line with standards, guidance and the law

- Effective assessment and delivery of people's care was ensured, in accordance with national guidance and legal requirements
- Staff understood people's needs and choices for their care. This information was recorded in people's care plans, which were regularly reviewed and accurately maintained. For example, in relation to people's mental health, daily living and communication needs.
- People and relatives were happy with the care provided, with all giving positive feedback. One person said, "I can get stressed, staff know how to help me calm down, if I go to my room for quiet they know when to check on me, they know what helps. Another person's relative said, 'Staff really understand how to support [person] to cope; [person]has progressed so much and their quality of life has improved massively with Voyage.'

Staff support: induction, training, skills and experience

- People received effectively informed care from an appropriate skill mix of staff, who were trained and supported to ensure this.
- New staff received a comprehensive induction before they provided people's care, which included nationally recognised training, shadowing more experienced staff and relevant competency checks. New staff also completed the care certificate when needed. This promotes a national set of care standards, which non-professional care staff are expected follow.
- Bespoke support, information and training was also provided. This supported staff to understand people's individual learning disability and health conditions, how this affected them and their related care requirements.
- All of the staff we spoke with felt they were well supported and informed to provide people's care. One staff member said, "I honestly can't fault the training and support we get; We get a lot of training, ongoing updates and bespoke training that's tailored for people's individual care needs."

Supporting people to live healthier lives, access to healthcare services and support; Supporting people to eat and drink enough to maintain a balanced diet

- People were supported to maintain or improve their health and nutrition when needed.
- Staff we spoke with understood people's individual health conditions and learning disabilities, how they affected them and their related personal care needs. This information was recorded in people's individual health plans, which were regularly reviewed and updated following any changes in their health and related care needs.
- Staff referred to relevant external health professionals and followed related instructions for people's

individual care, when needed. This information was accurately recorded in people's written care plans. This included following any concerning changes in people's health status. Or for example, to support individual programmes of nutrition, physical exercise or oral care and treatment prescribed for people's health, and for people's routine health screening and medical health reviews.

• People and relatives were confident in how staff supported people with their health. People comments included, "The staff help me with my appointments, they remind me and will go with me as I can get nervous and don't know what's been said." "They [staff] help me to keep calm and as well as I can."

Staff working with other agencies to provide consistent, effective, timely care

- The service worked in consultation with other agencies to promote effective, joined up care in accordance with people's assessed needs and choices.
- This included liaison with supported living housing providers and external community physio and occupational therapists. To enable the timely provision and safe use of any environmental adaptations or care equipment, when needed for people's care.

• People's care plans we looked at showed how people were supported to move into their supported living settings, to receive care from the service. This was done in consultation with them and relevant professionals involved in their care, to enable effective, timely transition at a pace to suit people's individual needs.

• People's had their own hospital passports in place, to allow health staff to understand their individual needs and enable staff to make any reasonable adjustments to people's care and treatment. This included information about their learning disability, communication needs, any pre-existing health condition and medicines they are taking.

Ensuring consent to care and treatment in line with law and guidance

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) provides a legal framework for making particular decisions on behalf of people who may lack the mental capacity to do so for themselves. The Act requires that, a far as possible, people make their own decisions and are helped to do so when needed. When they lack mental capacity to take particular decisions, any made on their behalf must be in their best interest and as least restrictive as possible.

People can only be deprived of their liberty to received care and treatment when this is in their best interests and legally authorised under the MCA. In care homes, and some hospitals, this is usually through MCA application procedures called the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). We checked whether the service was working within the principles of the MCA and whether any conditions on authorisations to deprive a person of their liberty had the appropriate legal authority and were being met.

- Staff understood and followed the principles of the MCA to obtain people's consent, best interests or appropriate authorisation for their care when needed.
- People's care records showed how decisions were made and agreed, which staff understood for people's care. This included decisions that could be legally made by another, appointed on the person's behalf. Such as decisions about people's finances or health and welfare.
- People's care records showed how decisions were made and agreed with them or their representative for their care.
- People and relatives said staff consulted with them to agree people's care arrangements.
- An external professional involved in people's care said, "I have found that undertaking mental capacity assessments has always been a priority of the service and to tailor people's support accordingly.

### Is the service caring?

## Our findings

Caring – this means we looked for evidence that the service involved people and treated them with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated Good. This meant people were supported and treated with dignity and respect; and involved as partners in their care.

Respecting and promoting people's privacy, dignity and independence. Ensuring people are well treated and supported; respecting equality and diversity

- People received care in a way that ensured their dignity, rights and confidentiality, from staff who understood and respected people's diverse needs. The provider's stated care aims and values, related staff training and policy guidance effectively supported this.
- People's care plans were individualised, detailing any adjustments staff needed to make, to support people in accordance with their rights and the law. For example, to enable people's independence, mobility and community access.
- We found the service had carried out specific work during the last 12 months to ensure care quality for people in relation to their protected equality characteristics. This included support in relation to gender identify and reassignment, and for individual's transition to adult independent living.
- Staff understood to promote people's rights in their care. One staff member said, "It's all about their [people's] rights, lives and homes; It's their right to lead a life like any other person, the same rights we would expect for ourselves and our families; That's a key part of how we work here at Voyage." An external professional told us, "They [the service] uphold the rights of people who use the service and promote their independence."
- People and relatives said staff were kind, caring and ensured people's rights and best interests. One person said, "Staff are kind and funny, I love that they make me laugh; I can cook a bit now with their help I wasn't that good at first, but I'm getting better at it." A relative told us, "I can't fault the service; [Person] has come on so much since they started receiving support from Voyage and their level of independence and confidence has grown a lot."

Supporting people to express their views and be involved in making decisions about their care

- People received care from staff who knew them well, involved them in decision making and followed what was important to them for their care.
- All of the people receiving care from the service could communicate verbally but some needed support to help them understand what was happening and to enable them to make choices. For example, by use of pictures, which staff followed.
- People's care plans we looked at, showed how decisions about their care and daily living arrangements were made in consultation with them, or their representatives. These were reviewed when needed to ensure they continued to meet with people's needs and choices.
- The provider's key service information helped to inform people and relatives about what they could expect from their care.
- People were supported to access specialist or independent advocacy services, if they needed someone to

speak up on their behalf. A staff member said, "It's important that we support people in line with our duty of care, but with how they want to live and what they want." A relative told us, "We might not always agree, but care staff are amazing; they know and adhere to the important things that matter to [person]."

### Is the service responsive?

# Our findings

Responsive – this means we looked for evidence that the service met people's needs.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated Good. This meant people's needs were met through good organisation and delivery.

Planning personalised care to ensure people have choice and control and to meet their needs and preferences

• People received care, which met their needs in an personalised way and promoted their independence, choice, autonomy and control.

- Staff understood the provider's stated aims and values for people's care, which included supporting people to maximise their individual potential, personal wellbeing and daily living skills. One staff member said, "We work to identified care values by encouraging and supporting normal living, new experiences, decision making and appropriate risk taking."
- People's care plans we looked at and feedback from people, relatives and staff showed that people were consistently supported, in a way that helped them to achieve good outcomes. Examples, included, to develop and maintain healthy relationships with others and practical daily living skills for their independence. Or, for people's emotional coping, such as in response to grief from loss or heightened feelings of anxiety associated with their mental health needs.
- People's individual choices, compatibility with staff and any others they lived with, were considered before they received care. This helped to ensure positive relationships and care experience.
- One person said, "Staff help me a lot to do things for myself and with how I feel; They know what helps and what doesn't and they listen, they are all brilliant." A relative said, "The staff have helped [person] so much in terms of their quality of life and coping with loss and change."

### Meeting people's communication needs

Since 2016 onwards all organisations that provide publicly funded adult social care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard (AIS). The standard was introduced to make sure people are given information in a way they can understand. The standard applies to all people with a disability, impairment or sensory loss and in some circumstances to their carers.

- The provider was meeting the AIS for people's care, with nationally recognised accreditation within the service for autism and use of technology.
- People were provided with key information in accessible formats, to help them understand what they could expect from their care and to help inform their daily lives. For example, a service guide, health service information and individual tenancy agreements for people's supported living accommodation.
- People and relatives felt people's information and communication needs were effectively met and that staff knew how to communicate with people in the way they understood and which was helpful to them. This was also confirmed in our related discussions with staff.

Supporting people to develop and maintain relationships to avoid social isolation; support to follow interests and to take part in activities that are socially and culturally relevant to them

- People were effectively supported to regularly engage with others and in interests that are important to them, both within their own homes and the local community as they chose.
- Staff we spoke with were positively motivated, to ensure people's rights to live the life they chose, with the same rights, choices and responsibilities as other citizens. This met with the provider's stated aims of care, which reflected nationally recognised voluntary care standards for supported living.
- In response to Government guidance for lockdown due to COVID-19, the provider had revised their communication and accessibility policy, to enable people to maintain their contacts and communicate regularly with friends, family and others who were important to them. This included by way of supporting safe, socially distanced meetings when possible, or via telephone calls, emails, texts, zoom meetings and social media.
- Some people sent us written feedback and photographs, to tell us about their care and support in relation to their chosen lifestyles and daily living arrangements. This showed people were happy and regularly supported to engage with others and in activities of their choice. Also to learn new skills for their own leisure, learning, daily living and household tasks.
- One person said, "I'm happy; staff support me to shop and with menu planning, I'm getting better at it." Another person told us, "I like going swimming and playing hockey on my PS4 (Playstation4) best; I think I'm really good at it."

Improving care quality in response to complaints or concerns

- The provider's arrangements for complaints and regular consultation with people, helped to inform, or improve people's care when needed.
- People were appropriately informed and supported to raise any concerns they may have about their care.
- People and relatives we spoke with said they knew how to raise any concerns if they needed to. Where any had raised issues or concerns, they were confident these were listened to and acted on, without the need to make a formal complaint.

### End of life care and support

- A care planning strategy was in place, to help inform people's end of life care. This met with relevant nationally recognised care principles; to ensure people's dignity, comfort, choice and best interests, and support their access to relevant lead health professionals concerned with end of life care, when needed.
- The service is not a lead care provider for end of life care. However, staff consulted with people at their own pace in a way they could understand, to help inform their end of life care arrangements and choices. For example, where people wanted to receive care, who they wished to be involved, care of the body after death and any wishes for their funeral arrangements.
- People's care records showed whether or not any advance decisions had been made regarding their care and treatment. Or, whether they had others who were legally appointed to make decisions in relation to people's health and welfare on their behalf.
- Staff we spoke with understood the basic key personal care principles associated with ensuring people's dignity, comfort and choice at the end of life.

### Is the service well-led?

## Our findings

Well-Led – this means we looked for evidence that service leadership, management and governance assured high-quality, person-centred care; supported learning and innovation; and promoted an open, fair culture.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated Good. This meant the service was consistently managed and well-led. Leaders and the culture they created promoted high-quality, person-centred care.

Managers and staff being clear about their roles, and understanding quality performance, risks and regulatory requirements; Continuous learning and improving care

- The provider operated effective arrangements for governance and service oversight. This ensured the quality and safety of people's care, continuous learning and improvement
- There was a registered manager for the service, who understood and followed the requirements of their registration for people's care.
- There were clear procedures in place for communication and reporting in relation to people's care and safety. Along with effective risk management strategies, to consistently identify, and inform any risk, common trends or areas for service planning and improvement
- Staff understood their role and responsibilities for people's care and service improvement. They gave positive feedback regarding management and leadership at the service. This included a strong focus on continuous service improvement through effective partnership working and communication for people's care and health. Management measures relating to staff performance, support and supervision helped to ensure this.
- People, relatives and staff said the registered manager and senior staff were supportive and accessible. One person said, "I have their telephone numbers, I know I can ring them any time if I need to. [The registered manager] comes to see me a lot to check I'm alright and checks with the staff too." A relative told us, "The registered manager is excellent, we are kept informed, nothing is too much trouble."

How the provider understands and acts on the duty of candour, which is their legal responsibility to be open and honest with people when something goes wrong

- The provider sent us written notifications about any important events when they happened at the service, to help us check people's safety there.
- Related records and feedback from local authority care commissioners involved in people care at the service; showed the registered manager acted in a timely manner when needed, to review any incidents and ensure people's safety ongoing.

Promoting a positive culture that is person-centred, open, inclusive and empowering, which achieves good outcomes for people; Engaging and involving people using the service, the public and staff, fully considering their equality characteristics

- We found there an equitable, person centred and inclusive care culture at the service, where people,
- relatives and staff were involved and engaged to inform people's care.
- The provider operated a comprehensive range of care policies, to inform and guide people's agreed care.

This was set against nationally recognised, sector relevant care practice standards and related guidance and the law.

• Staff understood the provider's care ethos, which aimed to promote people's rights and best interests in an empowering, inclusive and supportive manner. We found many examples for people's care, such as in relation to supporting people's sexuality and sexual health needs, freedom of choice and rights to live as ordinary citizens.

• Staff, people and relatives we spoke with, felt they were well supported, engaged and involved in the service. All we said they would recommend the service to friends and family.

• One person said, "I am happy, staff and [registered manager] are amazing – they listen and help me; I do loads of things now that I thought I couldn't." A relative told us, "They [staff] always focus on the person, to do what's right for them and communication is very good; In fact it's a brilliant service, I can't fault them." A staff member said, "I can honestly say we always strive to ensure good quality care and people's rights at all times; If you can't do that then you shouldn't be here, in fact you wouldn't be; Staff performance and people's care is well managed and monitored."

Working in partnership with others

• The provider worked with relevant agencies and external health, social care and educational partners, when needed for people's care, to ensure safe, effective and appropriately informed care provision.

• We found many examples of effective partnership working, which achieved good outcomes for people. This included, enabling one person living with autism, to obtain a health diagnosis and relevant care pathway access, which subsequently helped them to avoid any unnecessary hospital admission. For another person, this resulted in their improved oral and nutritional health, along with becoming pain free.

• The registered manager's remit included a service accreditation with the National Autistic Society, which is an internationally recognised care quality standard. Thereby demonstrating a commitment to understanding autism and related support and service development.

• An external professional regularly involved in people's care at the service said, "The service is well managed, and engages well with us; they always uphold people's rights and promote their independence and approaches to care are regularly updated."