

1183605

Registered provider: Lonsdale Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private provider. It provides care for up to four children of either gender.

The manager was registered by Ofsted in May 2020.

Inspection dates: 21 and 22 February 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: 2 November 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/11/2021	Full	Outstanding
05/02/2020	Full	Outstanding
25/01/2019	Full	Outstanding
21/02/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Children thrive in this nurturing environment. Children enjoy caring and trusting relationships with staff. Staff are invested in the children and have a good understanding of their needs. Staff spend considerable amounts of time talking and listening to children. As a result, children feel valued and have a deep-seated sense of permanence and belonging.

Transitions in and out of the home are carefully planned. Children who are new to the home settle quickly and are happy. Social workers said that the children have said that the 'staff are great' and that they want to remain here, as they feel safe.

A child who has recently moved into their own home wrote, 'I was totally against living here 100%, and if you told me in two years I would be grateful for living here, I wouldn't have believed you. You are people I can rely on and trust to make sure things turn out, each member of staff taught me something different and we are all one big family.'

Children are at the heart of everything that the staff do. Children are instrumental in planning their support, the activities, and choosing the menus. They are confident to attend meetings and speak to professionals. Therefore, children understand the plans for them and can influence any decisions made.

Staff are highly effective advocates for children. They challenge professionals when children do not receive the right support. Staff work in partnership with schools and other professionals to secure the right school for the children. This means children can engage in their learning and make progress.

Children are aspirational for their futures. Older children have chosen career paths and are actively pursuing courses that will help them achieve this. Other children are exploring a range of opportunities to help them decide what they want to do in the future.

Children enjoy an extensive range of meaningful and fun activities. Several children attend the army and sea cadets and thoroughly enjoy this, as well as the opportunities this has afforded them. Children have attended overnight camps and sea voyages. This has significantly enhanced their confidence and self-esteem.

Children are encouraged to be as independent as possible. They complete a range of household tasks, such as clearing the table, helping to do their laundry and cooking meals.

One child lives in the annex. He has a comprehensive independence plan, which is helping him to prepare for the next stage in his life. He is positive about his future

and is anxiously awaiting the outcome of a job interview. This has been possible because of the encouragement he has received from staff.

Children live in a warm, welcoming, family home. Their photos proudly adorn the walls of the home. Children's individuality is reflected in their bedrooms. This gives children a real sense of pride in their home.

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

Children have a strong sense of safety and well-being. They told the inspector that they feel safe and are safe here. Children said that they know that the staff care about them and want them to be happy. They feel confident to talk to staff about anything that may be worrying them. This is because they know that the staff care and will help them to resolve any issues.

Risk management strategies are effective and are created with the children. This means the children know and understand the plans in place to keep them safe. Ultimately, the risks for children have dramatically reduced since they have lived here.

Staff are not risk averse and consciously help children to take the next steps towards independence and moving on in their lives. Children are now confident to travel to college independently, to meet their friends at the cinema and spend time away from the home. This is a massive achievement, which has been carefully orchestrated by staff to build the children's confidence and self-esteem.

Incidents of children being missing from the home are extremely rare. However, when this does occur, staff take effective action. They actively search for the children and ensure that all professionals are notified. This means children are located quickly and return home safely.

Children behave well. They are respectful to staff, their friends and visitors. Children can reflect on their behaviour and talk to the staff about this and learn from their mistakes. This is because of the strong relationships children have with staff.

Staff recruitment and vetting procedures are robust and ensure that children are cared for by suitably vetted people. This means children are protected from harm.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The home is led by a passionate and inspirational manager. His passion for improving outcomes for children is infectious and permeates throughout the staff team. He leads a highly committed staff team that shares his values and ethos. As a result, the manager and the staff make a dramatic impact on the lives of the children living here.

Staff said that they feel empowered because of the support they received from the manager, as he wants them to be the best that they can be. Staff receive regular support, training and guidance which means that they can meet the ever-changing needs of the children.

Staff said that the support that they receive to complete their training is phenomenal. One member of staff said, 'It is a pleasure to work here.' Another member of staff said that the manager 'would go to the ends of the earth to protect, nurture and provide for the children.'

The manager and registered individual have a keen oversight of the setting and any areas for development. The manager and staff use research-informed practice to bring about change for children. For example, staff take children to seminars on knife crime to help children to understand the potential impact of this on themselves and others. Record-keeping is meticulous and contributes effectively to the children's life-story work.

The manager and staff believe that education is key to each child's success. This is not limited to school. Staff are proactive in helping children to complete online courses around subjects such as food hygiene, first aid, child sexual exploitation, and gang culture. This raises children's awareness of the world around them and builds their emotional resilience.

Internal and external monitoring is robust, which means that nothing is missed. Staff welcome the oversight of the independent person as it helps them to reflect on their practice and consider any changes that are required.

Multi-agency working is a key strength of the setting. The manager and staff are tenacious when it comes to seeking the right support for the children. Their commitment to the children is recognised by professionals, who said that the manager and staff work tirelessly to improve the outcomes for children.

Social workers said that the children talk fondly of the setting and refer to the staff as 'their family' and say that this is their home. Consequently, staff are seen as important and positive people in the children's lives.

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: 1183605

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lonsdale Care Ltd

Registered provider address: 34 Broadacre, Caton, Lancaster LA2 9NH

Responsible individual: Paul McClintock

Registered manager: Stephen Doody

Inspector

Chris Scully, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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