

1228090

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private organisation and is registered to provide care for up to four children with complex emotional and social needs due to past trauma.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2024.

Inspection dates: 5 and 6 November 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**

Date of last inspection: 26 July 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/07/2023	Full	Good
12/12/2022	Full	Good
09/11/2021	Full	Good
31/07/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of inspection, two children were living in the home. Extensive planning took place to ensure that the home was suitable for both children before they moved in. Both children benefited from a period of introductions and visits, and they were well supported to get to know the home environment and staff.

Two children have left the home since the last inspection. These children received a high level of support from managers in relation to challenging the plan for them to leave, as it was not in line with their wishes and feelings. The children were supported by the manager in making a complaint to their placing authority when the move went ahead.

Children build positive and trusting relationships with staff who are committed to providing them with support and care in all areas of their lives. One child made a Mother's Day card and wrote to all the female members of staff outlining why they were important to them. This demonstrates the strength of the relationships staff have built with children.

Staff help children understand the importance of education. One child had not been in education for three years before moving to the home. This child now attends a mainstream school and is supported by staff and the school to have an education plan that meets their needs. When children are unable to attend school, staff ensure they take part in home learning and educational activities. Staff work well with children's teachers to understand children's learning needs and to ensure consistent support.

Staff are supported by the organisation's therapeutic team to inform their practice, with an allocated therapist visiting each week. Children have individualised plans to address their therapeutic needs. This means that the children's emotional health needs are prioritised, monitored and managed well.

Staff understand the importance of children maintaining family relationships. They ensure that children see their families in line with their wishes. This helps children to maintain important relationships. One parent said that communication with staff is good and that they feel welcome when they come to visit.

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

Children say that they feel safe. Staff have a good understanding of children's vulnerabilities and risks. Carefully assessed staffing levels and written assessments ensure that children receive appropriate support in the home.

When children go missing from home, staff respond quickly and effectively so that the risk of harm is reduced. Reflective discussions take place with children when they return home to ensure that their views are heard and to reduce the risk of children going missing again.

Physical intervention is only used as a last resort to keep people safe. All interventions are appropriately recorded by staff. The manager reviews all incidents and gives children and staff the opportunity to share their views. This ensures that practice remains appropriate and supports children to learn about their behaviours.

When children make allegations relating to staff in the home, managers take their concerns seriously. Managers work in partnership with children's social workers and the local authority designated officer, and they advocate for children when responses could be improved. Managers ensure that children understand the steps that have been taken to promote their safety.

Medication is safely stored and administered. There has been one error since the last inspection; this was promptly identified and resolved by the manager.

Key-work sessions are carried out in line with children's needs and care plans. Planned and ad-hoc sessions are tailored to each child's age and understanding and tackle existing and emerging issues.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is child-focused and passionate about children receiving the best possible care.

Staff are positive about working in the home. They describe supportive colleagues and managers, including at senior level, who know them well and are accessible. Staff absence is mostly covered by the home's own staff, supported by a small number of the company's internal staff. This promotes continuity of care for the children from adults who know them well.

Monitoring systems are effective. These include a monthly statistical analysis of incidents to look how they can be reduced and what the triggers might be. The manager also ensures that they get individualised feedback from the children each month, which includes asking the children if they feel safe and well cared for by the staff team.

Staff supervision is regular and staff value the opportunity to reflect, and they recognise that this helps them improve their practice. Staff training is up to date and supports them to meet individual children's needs.

Team meetings are held regularly and are well attended. Role play, quizzes and scenarios are all used to promote staff development and check their knowledge.

The managers and staff have established strong connections with partner agencies. Professionals are positive about the communication from staff and the care provided for children.

There are no requirements or recommendations.

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: 1228090

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

Registered provider address: Egerton House, Wardle Road, Rochdale, Lancashire
OL12 9EN

Responsible individual: Kirsty Robinson

Registered manager: Alima Iqbal

Inspectors

Kate Savage, Social Care Inspector
Hayley Booth, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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