

1240936

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care for up to four children who may have experienced childhood trauma.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2023.

Inspection dates: 29 and 30 July 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 16 July 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2024	Full	Good
10/10/2023	Full	Good
18/10/2022	Full	Good
05/05/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of the inspection, four children were living in the home and shared their views about their experiences with the inspector.

Since the last inspection, five children have moved out of the home and five children have moved in. All moves were well planned to take account of children's individual needs. One child wrote to the staff thanking them for the love and care they had received during the four years they had lived in the home.

Children and staff have good relationships. There is warmth and interest shown by staff. Achievements are celebrated, and skills are learned through daily interactions with staff. Direct work is purposeful and researched, taking into consideration individual need and understanding.

When children are not in formal education, the manager and staff work hard with professionals to ensure that a school is quickly identified. While children wait for a school place to be found, staff provide structure, routine and educational activities to ensure children are prepared for school. Children who have left school are supported to look at future options. This helps to prepare children for their futures.

Independence plans are realistic for children. Staff have clear plans in place to support children in developing their independence skills. Staff are helping children to develop the skills they will need when they leave the home.

Children are supported to see their family and friends. Staff encourage social interactions and offer ideas for the time that children spend with those people who are significant to them. Family and friends are also welcome to spend time at the home. During a recent visit, one parent cooked Spanish food for the children and staff, which enhances the sense of community.

Some children need to take regular medication. There have been two medication errors since the last inspection. While there has been no physical or emotional impact on the children, it has highlighted the need for better auditing and training for staff. Leaders had identified this issue before the inspection and are in the process of embedding safer procedures, further training for staff and more effective management oversight.

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

Staff understand children's risks and vulnerabilities well. Children's individual risks are reviewed and plans updated as needed. Staff talk regularly with children about any safeguarding concerns and risky behaviours, which helps children to understand how to keep themselves safe.

Staff are skilled in managing children's anxieties. This means that staff do not hold children to keep them safe. Staff are trained in techniques to hold children safely as a last resort should the situation require it.

On occasions, there have been incidents relating to children's self-injurious behaviour. Staff respond quickly and appropriately to manage these risks and remove any items that children could use to harm themselves. Staff are helping children to understand difficult emotions and are working with them to develop positive strategies to manage them. Staff carry out searches of children's bedrooms when needed.

Safeguarding incidents are managed effectively and reported without delay where required. Multi-agency working means there are effective responses to safeguarding events. Professionals said that communication with staff has helped support children in reducing their exposure to risks.

Children are supported to take age-appropriate risks, which assists them to develop independence. When concerns about children being exploited have emerged, staff have worked effectively with multi-agency partners to safeguard children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is committed and leads by example. She seeks support and guidance from senior leaders when needed and is open to receiving constructive feedback to ensure that she is able to consistently meet the needs of the children and staff team.

There have been changes in the staff team since the last inspection. These have been managed sensitively to reduce the impact on the children. Safer recruitment practice is in place, and when concerns have arisen relating to staff practice, these have been acted on in a timely manner to prioritise children's well-being.

Staff appreciate the manager's constructive approach. The manager has a calm and nurturing approach, which promotes a trusting environment where staff feel they can learn, develop and improve. The manager has forged excellent relationships with the children, often spending quality time with them. Children seek the manager out for advice or simply to share their experiences from the day.

Team meetings are well attended, and staff value their importance. They provide staff with opportunities to discuss children and reflect on their care. This helps them to think about how best to support them. Staff also receive input from the in-house therapist to support reflection and therapeutic practice.

Most staff receive regular supervision sessions which allow them to reflect on and develop their practice. However, some staff in their probation period are not receiving supervision as set out in the home's policy and statement of purpose. This limits the manager's ability to consistently support new staff in their role.

Leaders and managers are in the process of consistently embedding a range of systems to monitor the quality of care given to the children. However, while the quality of care has been monitored since the last inspection, it has not been consistently recorded. This impacts on the manager's ability to fully identify the home's strengths and weaknesses. The home's statement of purpose has been reviewed and updated. However, it has not been sent to Ofsted within the required time frame, which reduces Ofsted's oversight of the home.

Professionals speak highly of the support offered to children, directly attributing this to strong leadership and a capable staff team. Information relating to children's events and progress is kept up to date through consistent communication.

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
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed. (Regulation 23 (1) (2)(b)) In particular, ensure that regular audits take place and that staff receive the necessary refresher training in relation to managing medication.	10 September 2025
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))	10 September 2025
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. The registered person must keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and	10 September 2025

notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (1) (3)(a)(b))	
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Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that all staff receive supervision of their practice which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. In particular, ensure that supervision is prioritised during staff's probation period. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

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: 1240936

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Lee Matthews

Registered manager: Melanie Dudley

Inspector

Kate Savage, Social Care Inspector

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