

1241782

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A local authority operates this home. It is registered to provide care for up to six children with social and emotional difficulties. There were six children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2016.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 October 2023

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	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 20 September 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/09/2022	Full	Good
13/04/2021	Full	Good
03/09/2019	Full	Good
14/02/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Staff offer children unconditional positive regard in this home. One child said, 'I can be a kid again, even when I'm naughty they [staff] have never said they feel disappointed with me.' Children have built trusted relationships with staff.

Staff support children to see their families, in line with their care plans. Staff take the children to see family members and family members are welcome to visit the home. Family time is important for children's identity and sense of belonging.

Staff use a model of care that encourages playfulness. They work hard at understanding children's likes and interests. Children play with staff and have fun. This helps them build positive childhood memories and experiences.

The home is warm and welcoming and children are able to personalise their bedrooms. However, some internal doors to communal areas have locks on them, which could prevent children from having access to all areas of their home.

Not all the children are accessing formal education or educational activities. Staff have worked hard to support the children to access education but have not been able to motivate them to attend. This means that some of the children are missing opportunities to learn and to socialise with peers.

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

Children have up-to-date and highly individual risk assessments. Where necessary, children have detailed safety plans. Staff are aware of the children's risks and what action they should take to keep them safe.

Staff have good knowledge of safeguarding procedures. They work in close partnership with agencies, such as children's services and the police. A social work professional said, 'They [the staff] are creative and have helped to create positive boundaries for [name of child].' Children's safety has increased since they have lived at the home.

A location risk assessment is in place and is updated regularly. The children's home environment is safe and secure.

Safer recruitment policies are in place, which means that staff who work with the child undergo checks to ensure they are appropriate to work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

Staff are not offered regular supervision or appraisals of their work. Staff do not always have the opportunity to reflect on their work with the children or on the

children's experiences. This means that opportunities to discuss how best to support the children are missed.

On two occasions, there have been serious safeguarding concerns. Staff did all that they needed to do to keep the children safe, but the manager did not notify Ofsted. This means that information was not shared with the regulator. This fails to provide transparency of safeguarding practice.

The leadership team completes audits of the home regularly. This helps support the manager and staff team to maintain good-quality care for children.

The staff have regular team meetings where they meet as a group to discuss the children and any improvements or changes that can be made to the children's care.

The registered manager is experienced and knows the children, the home and the staff very well. Staff say that he is very approachable and supportive.

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 notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child — is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))	24 November 2023
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help a child who is excluded from school, or who is of compulsory school age but not attending school, to access educational and training support throughout the period of exclusion or non-attendance and to return to school as soon as possible. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(viii))	24 November 2023
The registered person must ensure that—	24 November 2023

children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) In particular, the registered provider must remove internal locks on doors to communal areas.	
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) In particular, leaders and managers must ensure that staff receive regular supervision.	24 November 2023

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: 1241782

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Registered provider address: PO Box 78, Preston PR1 8XJ

Responsible individual: Michael Nunn

Registered manager: Mark Davies

Inspector

Cathy Wilkins, Social Care Inspector

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