

1241855

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 have had adverse childhood experiences that may have led to complex trauma-based needs.

The current manager was registered with Ofsted in December 2019. The manager has a level 5 qualification in leadership and management.

Inspection dates: 28 February and 1 March 2023

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
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 19 May 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/05/2021	Full	Good
10/12/2019	Full	Good
21/03/2019	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
09/07/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Three children currently live in the home. Since the previous inspection, three children have moved on. Two children moved in a planned way back to family or onto more-independent living. One child left in an unplanned way. The manager worked hard to ensure that clear information was shared with the child's new carers, and they maintained a relationship with the child after they moved on, visiting them at Christmas and their birthday.

The manager is persistent in motivating children to want to learn, and find ways to engage them in education or employment. For example, they support children with apprenticeship applications, job interviews, and in creating a curriculum vitae. Additionally, they help to reintegrate children back into education through home tutoring and supporting them to find the right educational establishment. This has resulted in a new school being found very recently for one child.

Children's health needs are prioritised. The manager ensures that they advocate for children to health professionals to overcome any delays in regards to their health. This persistence has ensured that one child's medication has recently been reviewed, which has impacted positively on their health and well-being. However, there have been some recent occasions when staff have not given a child their medication as prescribed. The manager investigated this thoroughly and took further action to improve procedures to prevent a recurrence.

Staff are creative in seeking opportunities to understand children's views and complex emotional needs. They find ways to engage children when they feel most comfortable to talk and build relationships. For example, one child enjoys fishing trips with staff. Another child goes for drives on the way to visit their friends with the home's therapist to help them to build a relationship with them at their pace. This ensures that children get individualised care that meets their needs.

The environment is not always homely and welcoming. Some aspects of the home are damaged. For example, there is damage to a downstairs bathroom and the back garden, and heavy soiling on one of the lounge floors.

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

The manager and staff have a good understanding of children's individual risks. Clear written guidance, which is regularly updated, supports staff in managing these risks.

When children make allegations relating to staff, the manager takes these concerns seriously. They report appropriately to the relevant professionals, follow advice and conduct investigations. This demonstrates effective safeguarding practice.

The manager models to staff a curious approach with children when concerns have emerged for children relating to possible exploitation or substance misuse. Staff share information promptly with other professionals, such as the police and local authorities. They also complete further work with children to help them to understand risk, and make plans to ensure the safety of children in the community. New and emerging risks are well understood and mitigated.

When children have gone missing, staff try to locate them to make sure that they are safe, and they escalate concerns with police and other professionals when this is needed. However, in one incident, staff did not follow the plans to go looking for a child swiftly, despite knowing of recent safeguarding concerns. The manager did not identify this in her oversight, but acknowledged during the inspection that this is an area where practice needs to be developed.

Since the last inspection, there has been one restraint. While this incident was some time ago, the incident led to a child moving from the home in an emergency, after another child and staff member were harmed. Staff did not effectively manage this incident to minimise the risk of harm between children. Records from the incident are unclear, and the manager did not ensure that learning from the incident was fully understood and disseminated. The manager has more recently conducted recording training to support staff's overall development in this area.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is passionate about the home, and advocates for children's wishes. She, alongside the therapist, model a nurturing and therapeutic approach to children's care. The manager has a strong knowledge of children's progress, and shows commitment to respecting their individual identities.

The manager effectively oversees incidents, and updates the guidance and plans after incidents to make sure that any safeguarding issues are managed effectively. She regularly talks to children. She responds promptly if there is a complaint, to help make improvements for the children based on their wishes.

Staff receive regular supervision from the manager. Supervision is focused on the needs of the children and how to support them to make progress. The therapist also offers staff bespoke therapeutic training to help upskill them. Team meetings thoroughly consider the care of children and their well-being.

Managers and staff build good working relationships with professionals. Two social workers described the manager's communication with them as excellent. They said that staff have strong relationships with children, and they ensure that the child's wishes and feelings are 'always listened to'.

The manager has faced challenges in staffing stability since the last inspection. This has impacted on her ability to monitor the care in the home effectively because she has sometimes been directly caring for children. The quality of care review did not properly evaluate incidents and did not involve consultation with staff or children.

The manager has also not identified shortfalls in the care planning arrangements for children. For example, some children's statutory educational reviews have not taken place promptly, and one child's life-story work has not commenced.

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, 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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that any damage is repaired promptly in areas of the home.	30 March 2023
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; and that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm.	13 April 2023

(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(iii)(b)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that staff have the skills to manage incidents to prevent children from harming one another, and also ensure that children's safety is prioritised and plans are followed during missing incidents.	
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))	27 April 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: 1241855

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Timothy Kosmala

Registered manager: Renee Clarke

Inspector

Fiona Roche, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023