

1244280

Registered provider: Witherslack Group

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and run. It provides therapeutic care to meet the care and accommodation needs for up to seven children who have social and /or emotional problems. There is another children's home and a school in the same grounds, both of which are registered separately and are owned by the same provider. All the children living at this home attend the on-site school.

There is a manager in post who registered with Ofsted in March 2018.

Inspection date: 29 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 15 June 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

Children feel safe at the home. The home provides a stimulating environment with plenty of resources to keep children entertained and for them to have fun and pursue their interests. There are framed photos on the walls, together with soft furnishings, which add to the homely feel. The children have personalised bedrooms which reflect their tastes and interests. All these factors combined provide the children with a sense of belonging.

The home is situated near a school and another children's home, all of which share the same complex and form part of the same organisation. This has created a sense of community for the children. The grounds enable children to enjoy a safe area to have fun and socialise with their friends.

Some children have lived at the home for many years and feel settled. Children receive warm and nurturing care from a stable, caring team of staff who know the children well. Staff have supported children to thrive from establishing a routine and structure to their day. This has enabled children to stamp their identity on the home, which has created an atmospheric family orientated environment.

Children at the home feel that staff value their wishes and feelings and act upon them. One child commented that staff support them 'to the max'. Children know how to make a complaint and they have faith in the complaints process. This means that children feel valued and that their opinions matter.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, both at the home and in the local area. They complete a weekly planner consisting of activities such as cooking, guitar lessons, boxing, fishing and swimming. Staff take part in activities alongside the children. This provides natural opportunities for trusting relationships to flourish.

The team has established a family-oriented value base. Communication between the team and children's families is good. This has enabled staff to build productive working relationships with children's family members. Children therefore maintain good links with their respective families.

The multi-disciplinary clinical team compiles a comprehensive assessment and overview of each child's needs. The manager translates the recommendations into the child's personal behaviour support plan. This provides staff with clear guidance on how to meet the child's motor skills and their sensory and emotional needs. As a result, the clinical team equips staff to establish a deeper understanding of how to best meet the child's needs.

There are regular consultations between the clinical and care teams. The clinicians provide objective and insightful input, which enables staff to establish a deeper understanding of the child's world. This enables staff to approach incidents with an open mind and look beyond the child's immediate behaviour. This means that consequences for children are restorative rather than punitive and enable children to reflect and learn.

There are very few occasions when staff need to restrain children to keep them and others safe. Staff demonstrate good de-escalation skills which enable children to recover quickly in times of crisis. When staff have deemed it necessary to restrain children, there has been good management oversight. This has ensured that staff and children have opportunities to reflect and learn from the incident, which has contributed to incidents of restraint being rare.

There is good oversight of the home in the manager's absence. In addition, there are robust auditing systems for quality assurance purposes. The structures that management has established minimise the risk of staff overlooking any welfare issues concerning the children in the manager's absence. This keeps children safer.

The manager ensures that staff are accountable for the care that they provide to children. There is also appropriate challenge to local authorities as and when required. This ensures that there is a cohesive and collective accountability between agencies towards the children's care.

Staff receive regular reflective supervision sessions. A clinician also leads the child-focused and reflective practice meetings which staff attend. Staff are therefore part of a learning organisation, enabling their practice to develop. This increases the team's capacity to meet the children's care needs.

Children's transitions to and from the home are structured. This includes children who are in crisis and require a move to an alternative home. Matching and planning children's transitions have decreased the likelihood of children suffering unnecessary disruption to their care.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/06/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/01/2020	Full	Good
12/03/2019	Full	Good
27/11/2018	Full	Inadequate

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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: 1244280

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Witherslack Group

Registered provider address: Lupton Tower, Lupton, Carnforth LA6 2PR

Responsible individual: Graeme Cheyne

Registered manager: Michelle Hird

Inspectors

Steve Guirey, Social Care Inspector

Tina Ruffles, 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 children looked after, 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 www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

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 2022