

1250915

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned home which provides care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2021.

There were three children living in the home at the time of the inspection.

Inspection dates: 25 and 26 July 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	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 27 July 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/07/2022	Full	Good
22/02/2022	Full	Good
12/02/2020	Full	Good
08/08/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children's care and support are central to the practice in the home. Children and staff have positive relationships and children say that they feel valued and listened to. Staff reinforce with children that they are cared for. They implement clear and consistent boundaries to help the children feel safe, treating each child as an individual and recognising their individual needs. Professionals comment on the positive relationships between the children and staff. One social worker said, 'No matter what is going on for the child, [name of child] always views the home as her safe space and wishes to stay there until she is ready to move on to semi-independence.'

Staff communicate effectively with external professionals to make sure that there is open and honest dialogue to support the all-round needs of each child. This includes placing authority social workers and education and health services, as well as children's parents. This further supports children in their overall progress. However, the home has not received some updated placing authority care plans. These are needed to demonstrate that the home's care plans are reflective of placing authority plans. Social workers recognise there has been a delay in providing plans. The manager provides placing authority social workers with regular progress reports for each child. This helps them have a good overview of how each child is progressing.

Children receive good support to meet their individual healthcare needs. They are all registered with community healthcare professionals and encouraged and supported to attend health appointments. Annual healthcare assessments further underpin their individual needs and how these are to be met. Emotional health and well-being are supported by the in-house therapy department, which is also involved in supporting staff to understand and deliver support to each child to support their emotional health daily. Therapy plans are also kept under review and progress is clearly monitored.

Children have mixed outcomes in relation to attending education. School attendance is consistently promoted by staff. However, some children do not attend on a regular basis. There has been some improvement recently with one child, following increased discussions with them, their school and education support. The manager is hopeful this will continue.

Children are supported and encouraged to develop their own interests and leisure pursuits. They are offered a range of activities, including joining football clubs, using local leisure facilities and planning their activities as a group and on an individual basis.

The home is a welcoming environment. Children are encouraged to personalise their own bedrooms to reflect their individuality. There is plenty of room for children to

spend time together as a group but also to have space to follow their own individual interests.

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

Staff understand the children's behaviours well. Some children display complex and challenging behaviour. They are supported through detailed behaviour management plans which are developed in partnership with the therapy team.

When staff have been unable to manage children's increasingly challenging behaviour and the impact of this on the other children living at the home, the manager and staff work with other professionals to make sure the children receive the care and support they need to move to a placement more suited to their individual needs.

Comprehensive risk management plans are in place for each child, and are reviewed on a regular basis to make sure that they remain current. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of individual risks and work effectively to minimise these.

Staff follow clear procedures in the event of a child going missing from care. They maintain contact with them whenever possible, are proactive in encouraging them to engage and support them to return to the home safely. They also request and ensure that children can speak with someone independent on their return. This helps to identify if there is a particular reason for the child going missing and to address any concerns they may raise.

All staff have received training and guidance in the event of needing to hold a child to keep them safe. When physical intervention has been used, clear records are kept which identify the measures taken to try to reduce the risk of any physical hold. Children are able to share their views about the incident and behaviour management plans are amended if required.

Consequences are rarely used as a response to negative behaviours. If they are, they are fair and proportionate. The views of the child involved are sought and this enables them to reflect on their behaviour.

Recruitment and selection procedures are robust and in accordance with safer recruitment practice. This helps to make sure that suitable people are appointed to work with children.

The manager and staff complete regular health and safety checks, including fire safety checks. Children are helped to understand the procedure to follow in the event of a fire. There is a clear maintenance programme in place to contribute to making sure the home remains suitable for the children living there.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is run by a suitably experienced manager with the necessary skills. She holds a level 3 qualification and is currently working towards her level 5 in leadership and management, which she is due to complete in the next few months.

She has high aspirations for all children, which is reflected in her practice and that of the staff team. The staff team benefits from the manager's positive and supportive guidance. All staff spoken with say that this guidance has helped them to increase their knowledge and skills, as well as providing continuity of care and support to the children. The manager makes good use of effective internal and external monitoring systems to have good overview of the home, with detailed records showing the action taken to address any shortfalls.

The home's statement of purpose is kept under review and updated as required. Staff work in accordance with this document to deliver the aims and objectives of the home.

There have been some changes to the staff team. However, this has had minimal impact on the children living at the home. Children say they have good relationships with staff and have felt that the introduction of new staff has been a positive addition to the home.

Staff benefit from comprehensive induction and training, as well as regular supervision, which is detailed and enables them to reflect on their practice. In addition to formal training, the manager and lead therapist for the home deliver ongoing informal training during staff meetings to further enhance staff skills and practice. This has included training on report writing, to ensure reports are clear and unambiguous.

The requirement made at the last inspection to develop a quality of care report has been addressed by the manager. The requirement in relation to children maintaining attendance at education has not been met in full and is therefore raised again. The recommendation in relation to staff completing training in recording and report writing has been met.

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
If the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c)) This specifically relates to ensuring that the home has up-to-date placing authority care plans for children.	1 October 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— understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(iii)(vii)) This specifically relates to children maintaining attendance in education. This requirement is restated.	1 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: 1250915

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Alison O'Donnell

Registered manager: Emma Slater

Inspector

Sarah Oldham, Social Care Inspector

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