

1274089

Registered provider: Lonsdale Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private provider operates this home. The home is registered to care for up to four children with social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The home registered with Ofsted in May 2018, and the manager registered in December 2020.

Four children were living at the home at the time of this inspection.

Inspection dates: 13 and 14 February 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 13 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/03/2024	Full	Outstanding
08/03/2023	Full	Outstanding
24/02/2022	Full	Outstanding
07/01/2020	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Since the last inspection, staff have supported one young person as they reached 18 years of age to secure a tenancy of their own. They also ensured that the most appropriate support was in place to meet the child's needs and enable them to progress on their unique individual journey. Staff supported the child's career progression, which contributed to the child receiving a national award for their work and being put forward to represent the UK in the international awards in the United States.

All children attend school, college or alternative provision and are making substantial progress in their education. The staff create learning opportunities in the home for children and have high aspirations for them to achieve their academic potential. This support helps children to develop the skills they need to achieve their ambitions.

The children live in a homely and loving environment. The home is full of photos of the children and staff and of children's achievements and memorable times. This provides the children with a strong sense of belonging.

Children make significant progress from their starting points. For example, for one child, the staff ensure that any barriers as a result of their additional needs are overcome. The manager is a strong and assertive advocate for the child, which has resulted in a plan of permanence being made for the child.

The registered manager meticulously plans each child's transition into and out of the home, gathering all necessary information to inform thorough assessments and effectively evaluate risks. Careful consideration is given to supporting the children already living in the home through any planned changes, helping to ease any anxieties about new arrivals. Before moving in, children are encouraged to visit the home, meet the staff and interact with the children already living at the home. This provides children with reassurance and support. One child said, 'It was the safest I've ever felt and the best night's sleep I've ever had.'

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

A strong safeguarding culture underpins practice in the home. Consequently, children say that they feel safe. Children have very detailed safe care plans that are regularly reviewed and updated. These set out the known behaviours of the children and provide staff with clear guidance to enable them to effectively support the children.

Staff proactively support children to take age-appropriate risks. Children are helped to understand their behaviours, and direct-work sessions instil clear boundaries and opportunities for children to explore their feelings safely. Children complete online training to support them to understand the risks they may face, how their actions may

impact on others and any consequences they may need to consider. This builds children's ability to manage their own behaviour effectively and keep themselves safe.

Safer recruitment checks are completed for all new employees. This ensures that the staff working at the home are safe to work with children.

Children's health needs are met remarkably well. Children are registered with relevant healthcare services and are supported to attend routine and specialist health appointments. This promotes children's emotional health and well-being.

Staff adopt a restorative approach to managing children's behaviour. Physical intervention to protect children from harm is rarely used. However, when this has been necessary, incidents are well recorded and evaluated. The registered manager sensitively consults with children and staff after incidents. He carefully considers everyone's views about the intervention and makes changes to care practices if necessary. This demonstrates a learning environment for staff and children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The manager is a caring, enthusiastic, committed and inspirational leader. He is fully involved in the children's lives and is a highly effective and strong advocate for them. The manager is held in high regard by children, their family members, the staff and other professionals.

Staff receive regular supervision and appraisals to help them to continue to deliver excellent care. There are regular team meetings, which focus on the children's well-being and provide excellent opportunities for staff to reflect on practice and their ongoing development.

The manager has excellent oversight of the home. Monitoring systems are incredibly thorough. This helps to ensure that children receive outstanding care.

The manager sets high expectations for home practice and provides support to staff to help them meet these standards. The manager has thorough oversight of incidents and focuses on practice improvement. The manager encourages team discussions to ensure that solutions and strategies are formulated to best support children using staff's knowledge and skills.

Leaders and managers know the strengths and areas for development of the home. The manager's review of quality of care is evaluative, focuses on key issues and provides direction for the staff.

Children receive care from a consistent, skilled and child-centred staff team. Staff receive training that is specific to the needs of the children in their care. However, this could benefit from additional refresher training when new children move into the home.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff access appropriate training to enable them to provide the most up-to-date and specific training when children are placed in their care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 39, paragraph 10.11)

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: 1274089

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lonsdale Care Limited

Registered provider address: 20 Brookhouse Road, Caton, Lancaster LA2 9QT

Responsible individual: Paul McClintock

Registered manager: Clark Senior

Inspector

James Meeks, Social Care Inspector

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