

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.

At the time of the inspection, there were four children living at the home.

Inspection dates: 13 and 14 March 2024

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: 8 March 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/03/2023	Full	Outstanding
24/02/2022	Full	Outstanding
07/01/2020	Full	Outstanding
22/11/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

Children live in a home that is maintained to an exceptionally high standard. Children's photos are proudly displayed on the walls, which makes the environment feel welcoming and homely. Children's bedrooms reflect their individual likes and interests, and when changes are requested by children, these are carried out.

Children's relationships with staff are excellent, and their sense of belonging and stability is evident. On their return from school, the children are relaxed and keen to share the events of their school day with the staff who care for them. Mealtimes are relaxed and informal, and they provide an opportunity for children to talk about their day and their plans for the coming weekend.

Children attend school and college, and their achievements are a cause for celebration. One child, who has missed a number of years of education, is now attending college and has been recognised as a 'student of the year'. Children are aspirational for their futures because they know that staff believe in them.

Children are in good health and are supported to maintain this. One child, who was fearful of health appointments, has been sensitively encouraged to feel less anxious about attending the dentist and optician. The child now proudly wears their glasses every day.

Children's experiences are enhanced from living in the home. They take part in activities that they never had the opportunity to do before. One child's teacher said, '[Name of child]'s world has opened up, which has increased their communication and confidence.'

Children are supported to develop their independence in line with their age and understanding. One child, who is being supported to move out of the home in line with their assessed needs, has passed their compulsory basic training to ride a moped. This gives the child more travel options and independence to attend college and their apprenticeship when living alone.

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

Children feel safe and are confident that the staff will protect them from harm. Children can identify staff members who they can talk to if they have any concerns. They are confident that staff will listen and support them to work through any difficulties they may have. This means that children feel valued and secure.

Children have individualised risk assessments that are regularly reviewed to accurately reflect their risks. Staff understand the risks children face inside and

outside of the home, and they take effective action to manage and reduce these. Targeted key-work sessions increase children's understanding, and this has successfully reduced risks in a number of areas.

Children have clear, consistent and appropriate boundaries that they understand and respect. Children receive positive consequences for their good behaviour, which includes a high level of verbal praise, increasing children's self-esteem and confidence.

Children have bespoke missing-from-home plans, and staff are aware of the procedures to follow should any child go missing from home. Since the last inspection, there have been no missing-from-home incidents.

Staff understand children's behaviour, and they use appropriate strategies in response to children's distress at the earliest opportunity to prevent any escalation. When a child is held, this is only a last resort and takes place in line with the home's policies and procedures. Children and staff involved are given the opportunity to reflect on incidents, and any learning is shared with the full staff team. There has only been one occasion where a child has had to be held since the last inspection.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

Managers are confident, ambitious practitioners who lead the staff team in order to make positive changes to children's lives. They have a wealth of experience that they share with the staff, who apply this learning to their daily interactions with children.

Leaders and managers know the children exceptionally well, and they are aspirational for them. Staff identify barriers to children's achievements and take appropriate action to address and reduce the impact of these on children's overall development. They have successfully secured an apprenticeship for one child, which will facilitate their progress towards their chosen career.

The staff team is stable, and there is a high number of qualified staff in the home. Those who do not have the relevant qualification are completing this. Staff work collaboratively together and feel well supported by managers and each other.

Managers and staff receive regular supervision that gives them the opportunity to reflect on their practice. Annual appraisals take account of feedback from children, colleagues and external professionals. However, the workforce development plan does not fully outline the procedures for staff induction and performance management.

All staff have completed mandatory training. Additional training specific to children's needs and safeguarding children, such as autism, county lines and child sexual exploitation training, has also been delivered to staff.

The manager works closely with partner agencies to gather information about children from those professionals who know the children well. A deputy headteacher said, 'The manager has worked with staff at school to identify and learn the strategies that are used effectively in school.' This has ensured that the child receives predictable and consistent care. As a result, the child is now settled at the home despite having previously moved home a number of times. This is remarkable progress for the child.

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should have a workforce plan that details the processes and agreed timescales for staff to achieve induction and the process for managing and improving poor performance. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.8)

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: 34 Broadacre, Caton, Lancaster LA2 9NH

Responsible individual: Paul McClintock

Registered manager: Clark Senior

Inspector

Sarah Jackson, Social Care Inspector

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