

2570481

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and registered to provide care for up to three children who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. If required, children can access the organisation's school and therapy department.

The manager has been in post since the home registered in May 2020.

Inspection date: 24 November 2021

Date of last inspection: 18 August 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.

A reflective and lessons learned approach means that the registered manager has suitably addressed four requirements and one recommendation from the previous inspection. These actions have improved the overall quality of care and safety for the two children living at the home.

A requirement was also made relating to the independent visitor's monthly report. Although some progress is noted, the independent visitor's statement regarding their view about whether children are effectively safeguarded and their well-being is promoted needs to be clear and less ambiguous.

Plans to admit a third child have been put on hold until the vacancies in the team can be filled. This decision has improved continuity of care by reducing the reliance on staff being used in the home from across the company.

Changes have been made to the way that referral information is gathered and evaluated. It is difficult to assess the true impact of these changes as no children have been considered for admission. However, if used effectively, they should enable the manager to better assess whether the next child's needs can be met without detriment to the children already living at the home.

The home is much more settled than previously reported. Issues of incompatibility between the children living at the home have reduced significantly following the discharge of one child. Relationships between the children are generally positive.

Children are making progress relative to their individual plans. They are offered good support that is enabling them to engage in education, keep in touch with the important people in their lives and learn how to become more independent.

Managers and staff understand their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. Unsafe situations and risk-taking behaviours seen previously have reduced significantly. However, concerns relating to cannabis use remain a major concern for one child. There is good evidence that staff have tried a range of educational, incentivised and multi-agency approaches that have so far been ineffective in changing this behaviour. Strategies are in place to ensure that there is a safe response to the child being under the influence. For example, it is standard practice to seek and follow medical advice and maintain frequent checks on the child.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/08/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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 independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether— children are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being. (Regulation 44 (4)(a)(b))	29 December 2021

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: 2570481

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Karen Brandon

Registered manager: Megan Whitlock

Inspectors

Paul Scott, Social Care Inspector
Cathy Wilkins, Social Care Inspector

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