

2594902

Registered provider: Witherslack Group Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is part of a national organisation. The home provides care for up to five children with emotional and social difficulties. At the time of this inspection, five children were living in the home.

The manager registered on 4 December 2023.

This home is on the same site as a school and two other children's homes which are all part of the same organisation. The inspector only inspected the social care provisions of this home on this site. The other two children's homes on the same site were not part of this inspection.

Inspection date: 12 March 2024

Date of last inspection: 20 September 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Staff have built trusting and secure relationships with children; they invest time in them and promote their welfare. Staff place strong importance on ensuring all children attend their educational provision. All children are making good progress from their starting points and are doing well.

Staff follow a clear protocol when children go missing from home. They take urgent action and implement a well-coordinated response to help protect children, reduce their risk of harm, and ensure a safe return home. Effective managerial oversight helps identify any lessons learnt so staff can adapt their approach and help reduce the risk to children. Missing from home incidents have significantly reduced since the last inspection.

Staff help children to learn to manage their own behaviours and feelings safely. This has resulted in incidents including where children self-harm notably reducing in number. There have been some serious incidents where, as a last resort staff have needed to physically restrain children to keep them and others safe and protected from harm. When physical intervention has been used the records detailing the event are thorough with good managerial oversight and all relevant external agencies are informed.

Staff understand the importance of following correct procedures when there are concerns about the safety of a child. Concerns are immediately shared with the child's placing local authority. Leaders and managers effectively work with the local authority to help ensure appropriate action is promptly taken to protect the child from further risk of harm. Records of the referrals are retained, and the work undertaken by staff to safeguard the child is robustly recorded.

The physical environment provides a safe and secure space for children to live. The home is maintained to a good standard and has a homely warm ambiance. An eye-catching modern mural that children helped to create covers the large fence in the garden and effectively brightens up the whole area. Children's bedrooms all contain an ensuite and are personalised to reflect their individual hobbies and interests.

No requirements or recommendations have been raised at this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/09/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/06/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/02/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2594902

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Witherslack Group Limited

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

Responsible individual: Neil Hedges

Registered manager: Sophie Stephenson

Inspector

Gary Turney, Social Care Inspector

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