

2725367

Registered provider: Gracewells Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private provider and is registered to provide care for 2 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2023.

At the time of the inspection, one child was living in the home. Due to the child being significantly unsettled during the inspection, part of the visit was conducted off site.

Inspection dates: 16 and 17 December 2025

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: 17 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/09/2024	Full	Good
15/11/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, one child has remained living in the home, and another child has moved on to live independently. The child who moved out did so in a well-planned way. They received additional support on an outreach basis following their move. This supported their long-term attendance at a specialist college placement. The child continues to have strong links with staff.

The child currently living in the home has been supported in accessing alternative education provision after being out of education for a significant period. The manager and staff are working closely with teachers to ensure the child's needs are met. The child is building their literacy and numeracy skills and has had opportunities to build new friendships. This has improved their confidence and self-esteem.

The home is warm and comfortable, with any repairs completed swiftly when required. Children can personalise their bedrooms.

Children's views are gathered on a weekly basis, including what activities they want to experience. As a result, children have enjoyed a variety of activities, such as going to the gym, ice skating and visiting museums. Children are encouraged to access sports clubs in the community. Images of children taking part in activities are recorded in personalised memory books.

Children's time with family and friends is prioritised. Children can go on holidays, and the manager has worked in partnership with social workers to help one child go abroad with a family member. This has supported children to enhance their life story.

Children's cultures are celebrated. For example, one child has been able to attend food festivals and access specialised hairdressers. Children are also supported to access places of worship, which helps them to maintain their identity.

Children's physical and emotional health needs are recognised, and they are encouraged to attend health appointments. The provider has commissioned a therapist to work with staff to empower them to use research-informed practice.

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

Staff safeguard children. They access detailed risk assessments that are updated regularly. These assessments are developed with involvement from children, placing authorities and partner agencies. This ensures that plans meet children's needs effectively.

Physical intervention is a last resort. Children and staff receive support from managers after incidents to reflect on what has happened. Managers evaluate incidents and

update children's behaviour support plans. This helps staff apply de-escalation techniques that are in line with children's needs. This has supported a reduction in children needing to be held.

Children benefit from the use of restorative approaches to incidents. This allows children to repair relationships with staff and understand the reasons why rules and boundaries are in place.

Children contribute to their care plans and benefit from strength-based, child-centred key-work sessions. These sessions help children to discuss the challenges they face. In response to this, staff receive training specific to the needs of the children. This training includes adverse childhood experiences, bereavement and building safe and secure relationships.

Incidents of children going missing are rare and time-limited. When children go missing, staff respond promptly, only seeking police support where necessary.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is committed and experienced and leads by example. Staff feel supported and valued by the leadership team.

Professionals speak constructively about the manager's communication. One social worker said that she had been appropriately challenged by the manager to ensure that a child's move into independence was paused to support the child's emotional wellbeing.

The manager oversees practice effectively. This includes regular audits, chronologies and feedback from the independent person. She actively seeks feedback and uses this to improve practice.

The staff team benefits from a blend of gender, skills and experience. Agency staff have not been used, and staff are committed to supporting one another. As a result, children benefit from consistent care.

All staff have access to regular supervision, which is reflective. However, there have been isolated instances where minutes had not been fully recorded.

Staff also have access to regular appraisals that support their professional development. Staff are encouraged to develop individually, and they are helped to secure professional qualifications linked to their role. However, appraisals do not include feedback from children and professionals. The manager recognises this as an area of ongoing development.

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

Recommendations

- All staff must have their performance and fitness to carry out their role formally appraised at least once annually. This appraisal should take into account, where reasonable and practical, the views of other professionals who have worked with the staff member over the year and children in the home's care. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.5)
- A record of supervision should be kept for staff, including the manager. The record should provide evidence that supervision is being delivered in line with regulation 33. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.3)

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: 2725367

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Gracewells Care Limited

Registered provider address: The Stables, Blackburn Farm, Ribby Road, Wrea Green, Preston PR4 2PA

Responsible individual: Emmie Wearing

Registered manager: Emma Wainwright

Inspector

Jon Dutton, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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