

2738398

Registered provider: Northridge Care Group Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

There is no registered manager.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living at the home.

Inspection date: 25 March 2025

Date of last inspection: 22 October 2024

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.

The inspector has 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

There has been a change in the management of the home since the last inspection. An interim manager is in post and his monitoring and reviewing of the home have improved the management oversight of the home. Since the last visit, two children have moved on from the home and one child has moved in and was the only child living at the home at the time of this inspection. The child, who is new to the home, is building meaningful, trusting relationships with staff.

Children have positive experiences of moving in and out of this home. When children move into the home, they are welcomed sensitively and with care. Children visit the home beforehand and meet staff. Endings are a positive experience for children who move out of the home. The manager ensures that children can visit their new home. For two children, a well-planned transition was implemented, including two visits and two overnights stays at their new home prior to moving in to help them build relationships with unfamiliar adults. Additionally, staff visited the children after they moved to help them to settle into their new home.

The child living at the home is currently not in education. The child's learning and development are supported by a comprehensive education timetable created by staff while a long-term solution is identified. The manager advocates for the child's educational needs effectively, ensuring that the child's views and wishes are consistently communicated and acted on by external professionals.

Children's health needs are consistently met, with staff ensuring that children are taken to regular routine health appointments. Health conditions are closely monitored and any emerging concerns are promptly addressed. Staff work closely with healthcare professionals to ensure that any necessary interventions are implemented for children.

Children are actively encouraged by staff to maintain and strengthen relationships with people who are important to them. Staff create a variety of opportunities for children to spend quality time with their families, supporting fun and enjoyable activities together.

On the few occasions when children have gone missing from the home, staff are proactive and professionally curious in their attempts to locate and return the children home safely. Practice is supported by detailed written information about the children from their placing authorities and clear multi-agency working. There are clear safety plans in place with guidance for staff to follow when children go missing from the home. Staff seek to understand the reasons why children go missing in an attempt to reduce the risk of future incidents.

Risks to children are known and understood by staff. Children's individual risk assessments are detailed with guidance for staff. Staff are proactive in using professional curiosity, consistently seeking to deepen their understanding of community-based risks and safeguarding concerns. They carry out searches of the

children's bedrooms when required. However, records do not evidence actions taken by staff to dispose of harmful items found.

Children's behaviour is generally well managed through a range of positive strategies, including rewards, de-escalation techniques and distraction methods. Any consequences imposed are natural and proportionate to the behaviour displayed. However, there has been one occasion when a child has been physically held by staff. Staff do not have a clear understanding of their responsibilities regarding court-ordered restrictions in place concerning physical intervention. This limits staff's ability to manage such situations appropriately. This is being taken seriously by leaders and managers, who have plans in place to address this shortfall.

Children know how to make a complaint. A QR code is readily accessible in the home so that children can make a complaint confidentially. However, the one complaint made directly to staff, has not been shared in a timely manner with the manager for appropriate action to be taken. The manager has plans in place to address this shortfall.

The manager is committed to staff's learning and development. Staff attend a wide range of training, including specialised courses to meet children's individual needs. The manager completes training sessions with staff during team meetings and tests their knowledge. Supervision is of good quality. Staff discuss and reflect on their care of children. Any identified shortfall in practice is raised in supervision sessions, and staff are given clear guidance on actions to be completed. Staff say that they are supported by the manager and enjoy coming to work.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
20/06/2024	Full	Inadequate
13/02/2024	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 must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to The Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards.' The registered person must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that staff understand their responsibilities in adhering to court- ordered restrictions in place.	25 April 2025
Subject to paragraph (6), the registered person must establish a procedure for considering complaints made by or on behalf of children. The registered person must ensure that a record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of any investigation. (Regulation 39 (1) (3) (5))	25 April 2025

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2738398

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Northridge Care Group Limited

Registered provider address: Richard House, 9 Winckley Square, Preston,
Lancashire PR1 3HP

Responsible individual: Michelle Donaghey

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Leanne Carr, Social Care Inspector

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