

# 2746055

Registered provider: Northridge Care Group Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for up to three children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and/or who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2025.

At the time of this inspection, there were no children living at the home.

### Inspection dates: 19 and 20 August 2025

|                                                                                           |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account | <b>inadequate</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|

|                                                             |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| How well children and young people are helped and protected | inadequate |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

|                                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| The effectiveness of leaders and managers | inadequate |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|

There are serious and/or widespread failures that mean children and young people are not protected or their welfare is not promoted or safeguarded and/or the care and experiences of children and young people are poor and they are not making progress.

**Date of last inspection:** 23 April 2024

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 23/04/2024      | Full            | Good                 |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: inadequate**

Since the last inspection, two children have moved into the home and three children have moved on from the home. Children have had variable experiences of living in the home. Two children have had largely positive experiences. However, poor matching considerations for one child, ineffective leadership and management and staff failing to follow safeguarding procedures has resulted in some serious incidents and one child being harmed. The serious shortfalls in safeguarding this child have determined the overall judgement of the home.

When children move into the home, they are welcomed sensitively and with care. Where possible, staff visit the children beforehand and children can visit the home and meet staff. When children arrive, staff spend time getting to know them to understand their likes and dislikes.

Staff recognise and understand the importance of children spending time with people who are important to them. Staff support and, when appropriate, supervise family time. As a result, children enjoy regular time with family and friends. This supports their sense of self and identity.

Children's education is a priority. When barriers to children attending education are identified, the registered manager works effectively with external agencies to find a solution that works best for the individual child. For one child, this included advocating on behalf of the child to source an appropriate provision to meet their educational needs.

### **How well children and young people are helped and protected: inadequate**

When significant incidents have taken place, staff do not always recognise the risks to children and do not always take appropriate action to reduce the risks. During one significant incident when a child made threats to kill themselves, staff did not follow the child's individual safety plans to increase the level of staff supervision to ensure that the child was always observed. Failure to follow the child's safety plan allowed the child to make a further attempt to take their own life by ligature. On discovering that the child had locked themselves in their bedroom and tied a ligature around their neck, staff failed to take effective immediate action to remove the ligature.

Staff undertake searches of children's bedrooms to remove items that may harm them. However, following one bedroom search, a child produced a knife and used this to self-injure. This means that staff oversight of children and their belongings is not always effective enough to keep children safe.

Children's risk assessments and safety plans are not always updated in a timely manner following incidents. As a result, staff do not have the necessary up-to-date information to provide appropriate care for children and keep them safe.

When children move into the home, the registered manager completes a risk assessment. However, the registered manager has not considered the staff team's skills and experiences effectively against the known risks for the child. This does not ensure that staff are appropriately skilled and experienced to meet the individual needs of the child or that all matching considerations are appropriately evaluated. For one child, this has had a significant impact and has resulted in an unplanned move for the child.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: inadequate**

There are significant concerns about the leadership and management of the home, which is impacting on the ability of the staff team to safeguard and protect children effectively. Serious incidents have not been managed appropriately, leaving children at risk of harm. Oversight from leaders and managers has failed to identify the significant shortfalls or take timely, effective action to improve practice.

There are significant concerns regarding potential breaches of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the protection of children's personal data. Additionally, there are concerns regarding the accuracy and validity of documents in the home. The records of some incidents and actions taken by staff have been written up retrospectively, a significant period after the incident. In addition, a page from the daily log on the day of a significant safeguarding incident had been torn from the logbook. This raises serious questions, not only about the accuracy of all records in the home but also the integrity and honesty of staff and leaders and managers.

Following the inspection, the provider made the decision to cancel the registration of this home voluntarily. Consequently, no further action was taken by Ofsted.

### **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:** 2746055

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Northridge Care Group Limited

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

**Responsible individual:** Joanne Kitchener

**Registered manager:** Aiden McQuinn

## Inspectors

Leanne Carr, Social Care Inspector  
Nicola Jeffery, Social Care Inspector

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