

SC035428

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority home provides short-term care for one child who may have social and emotional difficulties and physical disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2022.

Inspection dates: 31 October and 1 November 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	outstanding
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding
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The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.

Date of last inspection: 25 January 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/01/2023	Full	Good
18/10/2022	Full	Inadequate
07/12/2021	Full	Good
17/08/2021	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding

The quality of care and support provided to the child is outstanding. The child has made exceptional progress in many areas. This progress is because the staff go above and beyond. They strive to understand the child. This ensures the outcomes and experiences for this child are excellent.

Staff help the child to manage their own feelings. The child receives good support when feeling upset or anxious. Staff are not afraid to raise issues. They manage this with sensitivity. This has resulted in open discussions about some difficult subjects. This has strengthened relationships and built trust between the child and staff.

Staff have an exceptional understanding of the child's health needs. Full consideration is given to the impact of a long-term health condition. Staff work closely with health professionals to ensure that care is optimised to promote independence to meet health needs. This has meant that any deterioration in the child's condition has slowed.

The child receives regular support from a therapist. The therapist works closely with staff. This ensures that staff understand the child's therapeutic needs. As a result, the child receives care from staff who use a therapeutic approach in their practice. This has further supported positive relationships between staff and the child.

The voice of the child is paramount for the manager and staff. This means the child is developing skills and confidence to share their views. The child influences their care planning. One example of this is supporting the manager in developing child-friendly reports.

Educational progress is exceptional. The child is sitting one GCSE exam a year early. Due to some restrictions, the child is unable to attend school. However, tutors and staff ensure a rigorous educational package. They encourage the child with education and ensure they are having educational experiences outside the classroom environment.

The child enjoys a range of stimulating activities outside the home, including swimming and tennis. The child and staff frequently take part in a variety of activities. This gives the child a range of positive experiences in their day-to-day lives.

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

High-quality and consistent practice has ensured a significant reduction in risky behaviours. The committed staff have been successful in forming attachments with

the child. This means the child is safe. Importantly, the child said they feel safe and cared for.

Detailed risk assessments provide staff with clear guidance on managing self-harm. Risk assessments are dynamic and reflect the child's changing needs. Therapeutic professionals contribute their expertise to care planning. Staff and professionals are effective in ensuring the child's safety. Staff take a proactive approach to safeguarding children.

Risky situations are very well managed. Staff act quickly and decisively at all times in the best interests of the child. This is to ensure their ongoing safety. Managers' oversight of incidents is consistently effective, evident and clear. The manager ensures that the child and staff are debriefed following each incident. Information from these debriefs is used to better understand and mitigate risk. All incidents are recorded to a high standard.

Behaviour management assessments are clear. Staff work in line with the home's model of practice. Staff rarely use consequences to shape behaviours. The staff provide incentives for positive behaviour. When staff use physical intervention, it is as a last resort and to protect the child. Staff inspire the child to do well and to develop socially respectable behaviours.

Staff recognise the child's progress and celebrate with them when things go well. Progress is not always linear but staff are very proud of the child and tell them this. This builds the child's confidence.

The manager and staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding practice. The team has had sound safeguarding training and training specific to the child's needs. Staff are knowledgeable about a variety of safeguarding matters and keep the child at the centre of their practice. This ensures that the child's safeguarding needs are explored and understood.

Safe recruitment practice ensures that staff are suitable to work with children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The qualified and experienced registered manager has been in post for over a year. An experienced assistant manager supports her in the operation of the home. Together they have a wealth of experience and knowledge. The manager and staff have high ambitions for the child.

The manager and staff work well with other professionals. The manager challenges other agencies and escalates any concerns. The manager disputes plans that do not consider the child's wishes. This means that the child can contribute to planning for their future.

The manager has worked hard to understand the child and their needs. The manager shares analysis of the child's needs with the team. This enables reflective

discussions about the model of practice and means the team can consider other strategies and ways of working. This has encouraged an open culture in the team of staff being able to say how they feel.

The manager has nurtured and developed the staff team. This has ensured a consistent approach to caring for the child. Staff always have a positive and nurturing attitude towards the child, regardless of any challenges. This means the child can reflect and move on from more difficult days. A staff member said, 'Every incident is a learning opportunity.'

The diverse staff team celebrates equality, diversity and inclusion. Day-to-day practice reflects these principles.

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: SC035428

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Registered provider address: PO Box 78, Preston PR1 8XJ

Responsible individual: John Simpson

Registered manager: Jeanette O'Neill

Inspector

Sally Mitchell, Social Care Inspector

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