

SC035439

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority home. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children. At the time of the inspection, there were three children living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in 2018.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection dates: 5 and 6 January 2022

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: 5 March 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: Improved effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: None

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/03/2020	Interim	Improved effectiveness
24/04/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/08/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/02/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are making good progress in all areas of their lives because of the quality of the individualised care and support that they receive.

Staff at the home know the children well. They listen to them, respond to their needs and make them feel valued and cared about.

Children have made good progress in education. They are attending school and college and their behaviour and engagement have improved. Staff are aspirational for children and encourage them to have confidence and self-belief. Children are starting to think about their futures and are proud of the progress they have made.

Children have been supported to get jobs and gain valuable skills through work experience. They are supported to pursue hobbies and activities which they enjoy. Opportunities for children to socialise with peers are plentiful, and children are growing in confidence and making new friends.

Staff make sure that children have quality time with their families and other people who are important to them. Staff have offered practical help and support to family members, so that they can spend time with their child. This included supporting a child to have his first family holiday. Children value this support. One child said, 'They treat my family like their family.'

Children have decorated their bedrooms and helped to choose colour schemes and soft furnishings in their home. Some areas of the home are more homely than others and standards of decoration vary throughout the home, with some areas needing modernisation.

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

Actions taken in response to safeguarding concerns are appropriate and help to keep children safe.

When children are missing from the home, staff respond in line with safeguarding guidance and work effectively with external agencies to manage risk.

Risk management plans lack sufficient clarity in some areas and not all risks to children have been clearly identified.

Staff are proactive in ensuring that children's emotional needs are identified and addressed, and specialist help is made available when needed.

There are clear boundaries and appropriate sanctions. The staff team implements these consistently, which enables children to feel secure and helps them build trusting relationships with staff.

Staff use positive reinforcement and praise to support children's social, emotional and behavioural development. They are good role models for children and adopt a therapeutic parenting approach. Staff understand the impact of past experiences on children and encourage children to manage situations in a positive way.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager demonstrates strong values and high ambition for the children who live in the home. She has a good understanding of the strengths of the home and works closely with staff to develop good practice.

Staff say that they work in a supportive environment and receive good levels of training and supervision. Each staff member has a thorough induction and is encouraged to take an active part in their own professional development.

The manager and deputy managers use team meetings as informal learning opportunities, which further develops staff practice. For example, at one meeting, staff were discussing social pedagogy. They then developed 'personal profiles' for staff, to support any children who move into the home in the future.

There is a consistent staff team in place and sufficient numbers of staff to meet the needs of children. The home does not use agency staff, which means that children are always looked after by staff they know.

The manager has a system in place to support monitoring of the home. However, the manager did not identify some shortfalls in recording of information or gaps in training needs for staff. This means that there have been missed opportunities to ensure the continuous improvement in the quality of the care provided for children.

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) 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— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))	22 February 2022
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(h))	22 February 2022

Recommendation

- The registered person must ensure that the children's home is a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of the children, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. Children's homes must comply with relevant

health and safety legislations (alarms, food hygiene, etc); however, in doing so, homes should seek as far as possible to maintain a domestic rather than 'institutional' impression.

('Guide to the children's home regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: SC035439

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

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

Responsible individual: John Simpson

Registered managers: Sian Buckley

Inspector

Emma Thornton, Social Care Inspector

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