

SC035439

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to accommodate up to six children or young people who may have emotional or behavioural needs.

There is a manager in post who has been registered with Ofsted since October 2018.

Inspection date: 5 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 24 April 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

Since the last inspection of the home, young people have experienced good outcomes. Those young people who have left the home have done so in planned transitions, which have been well supported.

The needs of young people who have joined the home have been carefully considered before they have been offered a place. In addition, the manager has carried out effective matching exercises to help ensure that new young people do not have a negative impact on those already living in the home. As a result, the current group of young people are well settled and enjoy good relationships with staff and each other.

Young people who currently live in the home are making good progress in areas such as education and are growing in self-esteem and confidence. For example, a young person who was close to losing his school placement at the point of his admission is now achieving full attendance and has recently been nominated for an award by his school for improved engagement and behaviour.

Managers and staff have developed care planning to achieve a more child-centred and individualised approach. In addition, positive developments in direct work are assisting young people to express their feelings and wishes and have more meaningful involvement in their own care planning.

All managers and staff are aware of their responsibility to protect young people from abuse. Safeguarding concerns are quickly identified and addressed. The manager maintains clear records of all action taken in response to any safeguarding concerns, which generally demonstrate appropriate liaison with external professionals. However, in one example, there was a delay in notifying the appropriate agency, which was not in line with safeguarding procedures.

Since the last inspection, there have been good improvements in risk management practice. Risk assessments are well detailed and regularly reviewed in line with significant incidents or new information. Risk management guidance is clear and helps staff to ensure that young people's safety and well-being are consistently promoted.

There have been no incidents of young people going missing from the home since the last inspection, despite some young people having a history of doing so prior to their admission. This demonstrates very positive progress and means that young people are safer on a day-to-day basis. External professionals have identified this

and are planning to meet with the manager to explore this improvement and identify good practice that can be shared with other services.

The home has experienced some staff turnover and changes to the management team. This has been well managed and the impact on young people has been minimal. The manager has taken the opportunity to develop the team and has developed workshop-style training and group supervision.

The manager has taken appropriate actions to address requirements made at the last inspection. In addition, internal processes to monitor quality and safety have been reviewed and improved. Effective monitoring helps to ensure that areas for development are quickly identified and addressed and therefore supports the ongoing improvement of the service.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/04/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/08/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/02/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
19/07/2017	Full	Good

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
Policies for the protection of children The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which— is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect; and sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect. The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular— provide for liaison and co-operation with any local authority which are, or may be, making a child protection enquiry in relation to a child accommodated in the home; provide for the prompt referral of an allegation about current or ongoing abuse or neglect in relation to a child to the placing authority and, if different, the local authority in whose area the home is located; describe how and to whom staff are to report, without delay, any concern about abuse or neglect of a child. (Regulation 34(1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(f))	17/04/2020

Recommendations

- Registered persons should seek to involve the local authority and other relevant persons whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.4)

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full 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 address: PO Box 78, County Hall, Fishergate, Preston
PR1 8XJ

Responsible individual: John Simpson

Registered manager: Sian Buckley

Inspector

Marie Cordingley, Social Care Inspector

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