

# SC035439

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides care for up to three children. The home's statement of purpose states that the staff team has a nurturing ethos and strives to empower the children by promoting their right to be supported in their development, health and education.

### Inspection dates: 6 and 7 June 2023

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

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

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

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 13 March 2023

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement            |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 13/03/2023      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |
| 05/01/2022      | Full            | Good                            |
| 05/03/2020      | Interim         | Improved effectiveness          |
| 24/04/2019      | Full            | Requires improvement to be good |

## Inspection judgements

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

Children have trusting relationships with staff. Positive relationships are clear to see between staff and children. Staff talk to children with warmth and humour and clearly understand the children's needs well. This means that children have the opportunity to form positive relationships with the people who care for them.

Children have plenty of opportunities to enjoy different activities and find hobbies and interests. Staff have built relationships with children while joining them in activities and, for one child, this has allowed him to understand how the staff care for him.

Both children go to school. The staff have worked hard to find a school for one child. A place was recently allocated and staff have successfully encouraged the child to attend. Another child goes to school a considerable distance away. Staff have supported this, to ensure stability for the child when moving home. This has ensured that children can continue to progress in their education.

Children benefit from good-quality care that is competently delivered by the staff team. They settle into a caring and nurturing home where their needs are well managed and monitored. This high-quality care means that children make good progress in all areas of their development.

The home environment requires update and repairs. It is not a welcoming environment and is unlikely to inspire pride in the children who live here. Redecoration of the home is planned for the end of the month and the manager has consulted the children to plan the colour scheme and furnishings.

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

Regardless of children's behaviour, staff have a consistent and positive response. One child had been subject to a high number of physical holds but after staff reflection, they adopted a new way of working, using a clear method of managing behaviour that the child could understand. This quickly resulted in physical restraint for children no longer being needed.

Leaders and managers follow safer recruitment procedures. They ensure that all staff are appropriately checked and vetted before they work with the children. Effective recruitment is supported by an induction training programme. All these measures help to ensure that children are safeguarded effectively.

Staff are confident and have a clear understanding of what safeguarding means and the processes that need to be followed to protect children. There are clear risk management plans in place that are well written, understood by staff and reviewed by managers.

Children who display concerning criminal behaviour continue to be supported by the staff without judgment. Children are encouraged to engage in offending behaviour reduction programmes and, to support this work, staff talk to children about having a positive future.

The staff have recognised that they need to support the relationship between the children who live in the home, due to their differing needs. They have put a plan in place and intend to slowly develop a friendship between the children. This will mean that the children are able to enjoy activities and build a positive relationship.

Staff routinely use bedroom door alarms without any written agreement or review to determine if this level of surveillance is necessary to keep children safe.

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

The manager is suitably experienced and qualified but is not yet registered. The manager will be leaving the service in the coming months and a replacement has been appointed.

The manager has met all the requirements and recommendations that were made at the last inspection. The manager understands the strengths and weaknesses of the care that is provided and has plans in place to develop the service further.

The manager has drive and a vision for the home, and is aware of the strengths and the areas to improve. She has clear aspirations for the children and has demonstrated an understanding of meeting children's needs with flexibility and dynamic adaption. This means children receive highly individualised care.

The manager is held in high regard by other professionals. She is respected by the staff team. Staff say they feel supported and enjoy being part of the team. One external professional said, 'I feel that the home have supported my young person very well. Communication is excellent between the home, myself and school.'

Staff receive all the training that they need to meet the children's needs. Team meetings and team-building days are used as additional opportunities for learning and staff development.

The manager has good oversight of the service. However, it is unclear what steps are taken to ensure that staff are aware of updated information. This could lead to children's needs not being understood and met effectively by staff.

## 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, The 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        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <p>The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children;</p> <p>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—</p> <p>meet the needs of each child; and</p> <p>enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii))</p> <p>Specifically, this relates to the need to improve the look of the home environment.</p> | 31 August 2023  |
| <p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(h))</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 9 December 2023 |

|                                                                     |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| This relates to gaining written consent for the use of door alarms. |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

## Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that any home using monitoring equipment should have a written policy describing how this will support the safeguarding and well-being of those living and working in the home, in accordance with regulation 24. Homes must gain consent from the placing authority to any monitoring or surveillance in writing at the time of placement. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.16)

## **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, Preston PR1 8XJ

**Responsible individual:** Michael Nunn

**Registered manager:** Post vacant

## Inspector

Sally Mitchell, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2023