

SC035439

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a local authority and provides care for up to three children who may have emotional and social difficulties. At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in August 2023.

Inspection date: 11 December 2025

This monitoring visit

This home was judged as having serious and widespread concerns at the assurance inspection on 12 November 2025. Shortfalls were identified in the arrangements to safeguard children and the effectiveness of the leadership and management. Two compliance notices were issued under section 22A of the Care Standards Act 2000. The compliance notices were in relation to regulation 12, the protection of children standard and regulation 13, the leadership and management standard.

The purpose of this visit was to review whether leaders and managers have taken sufficient action to meet the steps required in the compliance notices.

Risk management plans have been updated following incidents and emerging concerns. These plans include clear steps for staff to follow. Staff were able to describe these plans confidently. Handovers between staff and team meetings now include short learning sessions to reinforce understanding. These improvements show a commitment to improving practice.

Decisions about children living together have been reviewed and strategies have been introduced to reduce risks. Staff are aware of these measures and plans are in place to increase children's safety.

Staff spoke positively about their understanding of children's vulnerabilities and the steps they need to take to keep them safe. Staff are engaging in learning to build confidence in managing safeguarding scenarios.

Management oversight of incidents has improved, with evidence of analysis and learning being shared with staff. This is helping to strengthen practice and reduce repeat concerns.

Staff training has improved, with most staff completing safeguarding and child sexual exploitation training. Leaders recognise that further training is needed in areas such as substance misuse and plans are in place to address these gaps. Staff expressed confidence that these developments will help them respond more effectively to risks.

The staff team is now more stable, with permanent staff and deputy managers providing greater consistency for children. Leaders have worked hard to reduce reliance on agency staff and this progress is helping to create a more settled environment. Continued focus on staff development will further strengthen the quality of care.

Detailed risk assessment and analysis are in place; balanced decisions have been made about children's individual risk associated with their access to mobile phones.

A case review on 12 December 2025 determined that the steps outlined in compliance notices issued under Regulation 12 and regulation 13 have been met.

Requirements made under regulations 8, 14, 21 and 37 were not considered as part of this visit. They will be considered at the home's next full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/09/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/05/2025	Full	Inadequate
23/10/2024	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/06/2024	Full	Inadequate

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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child; ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to 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)(a)(d)(e)(h)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that that staff must complete the training that equips them to care for the children individual needs effectively.	12 January 2026
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff—	12 January 2026

help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment; promote opportunities for each child to learn informally; maintain regular contact with each child's education and training provider, including engaging with the provider and the placing authority to support the child's education and training and to maximise the child's achievement; raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority; help each child who is above compulsory school age to participate in further education, training or employment and to prepare for future care, education or employment; help each child to attend education or training in accordance with the expectations in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(ix)(x)) In particular, the registered person must advocate on behalf of children who are not in an appropriate educational placement, by challenging and escalating concerns with the placing authority and virtual school. The registered person must ensure that when children are not in receipt of education, they are provided with suitable, structured activities to help them to sustain or regain their confidence.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—	12 January 2026

that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(c)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that children have structured plans and routines each day.	
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) The registered person must ensure that locks on internal doors are removed.	12 January 2026
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that the home's rotas contain a record of actual hours worked and contain staff full names.	12 January 2026

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and ensure that staff communicate with one another all important information relating to children living in the home. This includes the effective use of handover time when staff are starting and ending shift. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)
- The registered person should ensure staff consistently follow the homes policies and procedures and that everyone working in the home must understand their roles and responsibilities including adhering to professional boundaries for the benefit of the children living in the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.20)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC035439

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lancashire County Council

Registered provider address: Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100, Preston
PR1 0LD

Responsible individual: Tracey Sykes

Registered manager: Richard Lawler

Inspectors

Cathy Wilkins, Social Care Inspector
Sophie Thomson, Social Care Inspector

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