

SC065189

Registered provider: Meadows Care limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home provides care for up to three children who may have social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home and three have moved out. Two children were present during the inspection and were spoken with.

The manager registered with Ofsted in March 2020.

Inspection dates: 12 and 13 August 2025

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: 11 June 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/06/2024	Full	Good
10/05/2023	Full	Good
24/05/2022	Full	Good
14/06/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are encouraged to explore their feelings through fun activities with therapists who visit the home. Therapists also advise staff on how they can help children to manage their emotions safely and support children who self-harm. This effectively supports improvements in children's emotional health.

Therapeutic support is also available to parents to help them to better understand their children and prepare for their return home when this is planned.

Children are supported through calm and caring interactions with staff. When children are upset, staff take time to talk with them, helping them reflect and ensuring they feel heard. Staff are still building relationships with some children, and their nurturing approach is helping to develop trust and stability.

Children spend time with staff to reflect when they act on impulse. Staff support them to think about they felt before, during and after incidents. These conversations help children understand their emotions and actions. Staff are kind and patient, and their consistent approach is helping children to build trust and feel more settled.

Children know how to make a complaint and feel confident their concerns will be taken seriously. Children's concerns are responded to promptly and they are helped to understand the outcome and any actions taken. This makes children feel listened to and valued, promoting a safe, trusting environment.

Children attend school regularly and are making good progress from their starting points. Staff take children to and from school, which promotes good routines and helps remove barriers to attendance. For one child, this has led to improved attendance. Strong communication between staff and education providers ensures a consistent approach, supporting children's learning and well-being both at home and in school.

Staff take time to listen to children and make sure their views are heard when important decisions are being made. When plans for leaving care do not reflect what a child wants or needs, staff challenge these decisions and work with others to find better options. They help children understand their choices and support them to access advocacy services when needed. This means children are not left to manage difficult conversations alone. Staff continue to explore alternatives that keep children connected to people and places that matter to them. As a result, children feel more involved, supported and confident about their future.

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

Children are protected by staff, who take their safeguarding responsibilities seriously. Allegations are responded to promptly and in line with safeguarding procedures.

Investigations are thorough, and actions taken are appropriate and well documented. The manager maintains strong oversight, ensuring that any concerns are addressed quickly and effectively.

Staff are proactive in identifying and reducing risks. When children go missing from home, staff respond immediately in line with each child's plan. Staff take clear steps to locate children by contacting family, checking known locations and phoning children. When children return home, they are welcomed back with warmth, and independent return home interviews are used meaningfully to understand and reduce future risks. For one child, missing episodes have significantly reduced since moving into the home.

Children are supported to understand risks, including exploitation, through regular conversations and discussions. These are tailored to each child and used to build awareness and confidence. Staff show strong professional curiosity and persistence, helping children feel informed, supported and safe.

Staff understand the importance of modelling safe behaviour. Although there was a shortfall when some staff were seen smoking on the premises. This was addressed quickly, and the provider has taken action to ensure that this does not happen again. Staff help children understand the risks of vaping and why it is not allowed in the home.

Room searches are only carried out when there is a clear concern that a child may be at risk. These are proportionate, necessary and recorded properly. Children are told why searches take place, which helps children feel safe.

Staff manage high-risk behaviour with skill and sensitivity. When incidents escalate and begin to affect others, the manager acts quickly to increase the supervision of children and reduce risk. Decisions to end a child's time at the home are made only when necessary and in the best interests of all children. Information is shared clearly with professionals to support moves to more suitable homes. This approach reflects strong leadership and a commitment to safeguarding.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is well supported by the responsible individual and the wider therapeutic team. This ensures strong and consistent leadership, where children are at the centre of all decision-making. Children's progress is regularly reviewed, and any emerging patterns are carefully considered. This means approaches can be adapted to meet children's changing needs and care remains responsive and effective.

Team meetings are held regularly and used purposefully to share updates, reflect on practice and support staff development. Staff discuss behaviour plans, risk assessments and routines together, helping them stay informed and confident in their roles. Staff are encouraged to contribute to children's risk assessments, with clear guidance and support offered to build skills and keep plans current.

Staff development is supported through regular appraisals and a clear probation process for new staff. The manager uses these opportunities to identify strengths and areas for improvement, offering practical support and guidance. Senior staff dedicate time to help team members build new skills. Once probation is completed, staff are enrolled on relevant qualifications to support their ongoing development. This helps good practice continue to thrive and leads to consistent, high-quality care for children.

New staff are welcomed into a team that is described as cohesive, supportive and positive. The atmosphere in the home is one of warmth and laughter, which helps children feel relaxed and secure. Leaders and managers recognise and reward staff efforts, which promotes a sense of value and belonging. Staff report feeling supported and confident in their roles, with access to training and opportunities to grow.

A parent shared that their child is settled, safe and comfortable in the home. They praised the staff for timely communication and regular updates, and said they feel welcomed and involved in decisions about their child's care. They described the therapeutic support as the best they have received.

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
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; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies; that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm; that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health; and that the effectiveness of the home's child protection policies is monitored regularly. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(v)(vii)(b)(d)(e)) In particular, managers and staff must ensure that any items which pose a health or safety risk (such as vapes or vape liquids) are not permitted in children's bedrooms and prompt and appropriate action is taken to remove such items.	6 April 2026

Information about this inspection

The inspector has 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: SC065189

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

Registered provider address: Egerton House, Wardle Road, Rochdale OL12 9EN

Responsible individual: Katie Knox

Registered manager: Paula Harden

Inspector

Nicola Forrester, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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