

# SC372117

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and run and is registered to provide care for up to three children.

The manager has been registered since 2016.

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.

We last visited this setting on 9 March 2021 to carry out a monitoring visit. The report is published on the Ofsted website.

### Inspection dates: 1 and 2 November 2021

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account</b> | <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:** 15 April 2019

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 15/04/2019      | Full            | Good                    |
| 24/09/2018      | Full            | Good                    |
| 30/01/2018      | Interim         | Sustained effectiveness |
| 23/05/2017      | Full            | Good                    |

## Inspection judgements

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

Children benefit from the care they receive. They are valued as individuals and develop trusting and secure relationships with staff. The staff show a good understanding of children's needs and work hard to support their development.

Positive relationships between children and staff underpin children's sense of belonging. This in turn helps children to address and overcome previous life traumas.

Over time, children begin to learn how to better manage their emotions and accommodate other people's views. Staff act as good role models for children as they demonstrate and reinforce positive behaviour.

Children have invested in their placements and feel that the care staff offer has made a positive difference to their lives. They speak with warmth and affection about the staff who care for them. One child described the staff as 'genuine'.

Overall, children make good progress. Some children are unable to maintain consistent or suitable levels of educational attendance. Although staff have attempted to address this in numerous ways, they have not been fully successful.

Children say they feel listened to and that their views are important to the staff. Children are supported to have positive contact with their families, and they are given advice on identifying and maintaining positive relationships.

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

Children say they feel safe, and professionals spoken to concur with this view. Staff understand children's vulnerabilities and how to keep them safe. They provide guidance and advice and respond appropriately when risks are seen to increase.

Drug and alcohol misuse is not a current feature of children's lives, nor are they at risk of child exploitation.

Incidents of children going missing from home are infrequent. When they do occur, staff act and respond appropriately.

Staff help children to understand risks, improve their behaviour and mature in their outlook. As such, there has not been any need for staff to restrain children or impose any penalties as a result of poor behaviour.

Children are offered consistent boundaries, routines and praise. This supports the progress they make in their lives. An independent reviewing officer commented on the progress for one child and said, 'She has the chance of a good life now.'

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

The manager understands the children well and how the care offered affects their progress. She has well-developed systems in place to monitor and improve the running of the home. She is child-centred and leads a committed staff team.

Staff spoken to are enthusiastic about their work and complimentary about the manager's style of leadership. They receive good levels of supervision, guidance and support from the manager. Staff take a team approach to caring for children, which provides stability and consistency.

There is a wide range of training available to the staff. The manager monitors staff's progress towards achieving the relevant qualifications and provides additional levels of support to ensure that they complete these within regulatory timescales.

Children's records are kept up to date and are reflective of their lives at the home. However, it is not always clear whether individual sessions are planned, achieve the desired outcome or whether they have been reviewed for their efficacy.

Overall, the home is maintained to a good standard and offers a welcoming and homely feel. There are areas that would benefit from improvement, such as renewal of the kitchen work surfaces and replacement of the bathroom flooring and bath panelling.

## 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 must comply within the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Due date         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <p>The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans;</p> <p>understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome such barriers. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii))</p> <p>This specifically relates to ensuring that children maintain regular school attendance. Plans should address underlying causes of children's refusal to attend school and be reviewed and evaluated against progress.</p> | 31 December 2021 |

### Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home is maintained and that all areas of the home remain in good order. This specifically relates to repair or upgrade of the children's bathroom, and kitchen work surfaces being renewed. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that work with children reflects planning and focus. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

## **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:** SC372117

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Meadows Care Limited

**Registered provider address:** Meadows Care Limited, Egerton House, Wardle Road, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 9EN

**Responsible individual:** Karen Brandon

**Registered manager:** Katie Knox

## Inspector

Pauline Yates, Social Care Inspector

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