

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC411030
Inspector	Ceri Evans
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Meadows Care Limited
Registered person address	Egerton House Wardle Road ROCHDALE Lancashire OL12 9EN
Responsible individual	Niel David Shelmerdine
Registered manager	Vicky Allen
Date of last inspection	23/10/2014

Inspection date	12/03/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

This home was last inspected in October 2014. At that time, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. Since the last inspection the service has been able to demonstrate continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The manager has effectively addressed the one requirement made at the last inspection. This demonstrates that the manager learns from inspections and is committed to continued development of the service.

Young people benefit from living in an effectively managed home. Staff are motivated, dynamic and dedicated. The team are extremely nurturing and genuinely care for the well-being of young people. Staffing levels are good and there is a range of expertise and skills within the team. This ensures the individual needs of young people are fully met.

Staff are excellent role models and are very supportive and encouraging towards young people. As a result young people feel secure and trust those responsible for their care. Professionals continue to comment highly about the quality of relationships that exist within the home and state 'Staff are exemplary, very supportive, very efficient and professional at all times. They have developed a positive relationship with (name) and he loves it there. (Name) is engaging well and is thriving.'

Educational outcomes for young people are good, taking into account progress from the start of their placement. Young people are supported in their education and attendance has greatly improved in recent months. Young people understand the importance of good school attendance and they have started to demonstrate considerable progress. This undoubtedly strengthens their future education and employment prospects.

Young people feel safe and well cared for and enjoy a range of experiences and opportunities within the home and in the community. They participate in a range of activities that provide enjoyment and exercise. These include sporting activities such as football and rugby. Staff actively encourage young people to develop their individual talents and interests. Young people have lots of opportunities to try new things, which enable them to develop their social skills and become more confident in their abilities.

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of safeguarding practices. They have excellent working relationship with other professionals to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of young people is given optimum priority. Behaviour management plans and risk assessments are regularly reviewed and provide a thorough overview of identified needs, triggers and management strategies. As a result, young people are well protected from harm and their wellbeing is promoted at all times.

Young people benefit from consistent behaviour management strategies which promote more socially acceptable behaviour. There have been no recorded incidents of physical restraints since the last inspection and sanctions are extremely rare. This is indicative of the positive relationships that exist between staff and young people. This also demonstrates that young people are learning how to regulate their behaviours and have developed new ways of managing their feelings.

The home has improved the recording of notifications and Ofsted is notified in a timely manner. Notifications are detailed and provide a clear picture of the action taken by the home to support the young person.

Further improvements have been made to the way in which young people's files are organised. Key work sessions and individual projects are clearly recorded. Individual placement plans have been updated and provide a comprehensive picture of young people's needs, behaviours and personalities. Plans are updated on a regular basis and young people are encouraged to have a significant interest in how their care is planned and reviewed. Files offer a good overall picture of young people's experiences within the home. However, some documents such as risk assessments and care plans have not been signed by the placing authority. This is a minor shortfall and is not detrimental to the welfare and wellbeing of young people.

Evidence gathered at this inspection demonstrates that the home has the capacity to improve and learn from inspections. The requirement made at the last inspection has been met. Highly personalised care enables young people to make excellent progress across all areas. Young people are growing in confidence, feel safe and enjoy positive relationships with their care givers. This home provides young people with a safe and secure base. This impacts positively on their outcomes and enables them to grow and flourish as individuals.

Information about this children's home

The home is privately run and registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/10/2014	Full	good
11/03/2014	Interim	good progress
19/11/2013	Full	good
20/12/2012	Interim	good progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- There is a system in place to monitor the quality and adequacy of record keeping and take action when needed. This specifically relates to ensuring placing authorities sign young people's care plans and risk assessments(NMS 22.1)

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.