

SC411030

Meadows Care Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and run. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three children who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The home is currently managed by the company's operational development manager, with assistance from a team leader. This arrangement is to cover the temporary absence of a registered manager.

Inspection date: 24 February 2021

This monitoring visit

This visit was carried out in response to an increase in the number of notifications received by Ofsted. The notifications relate to safeguarding incidents outside of the home and children's adherence to court-imposed restrictions.

Professionals spoken to consider that the managers and staff team have suitable insight into, and respond appropriately to, the risks that some children's behaviour may pose to themselves or others.

When risks associated with children's behaviours increase, there are timely and well-coordinated responses from the management team. These responses include requests for multi-agency meetings in order to address the concerns and review children's safety plans. Staff are supported in their role through clear and up-to-date assessments of risk.

The managers and staff establish and maintain strong professional networks to ensure that children are offered care that protects their welfare. One social worker commented, 'They [staff and managers] have been proactive in making sure they receive the right responses from everyone in working towards the plan and pushing the plan forward.'

Through living at the home, children have made individual progress over time. This includes children learning to self-regulate their emotional responses and making safer choices with regards to their friendship groups and their actions. When children's understanding of previously completed work is in doubt, staff develop plans to revisit these areas with children. This ensures that learning is embedded and in line with children's cognitive abilities and learning styles.

Children spoken to say that they feel safe living at the home and that staff listen to them. Staff support contact between children and their families, which promotes their sense of identity. Children benefit from longevity of placement at the home, which contributes to providing stability and continuity of care.

Where appropriate, managers and staff have considered children's leaving care needs and are actively involved in the timing of these future events. However, neither staff nor children have access to up-to-date plans that will provide the necessary detail for such moves.

Some children do not regularly attend school, and the work by staff to encourage children's participation in education has not been reviewed for its efficacy. Although staff use incentives to encourage children, some of the incentives used, such as prolonged access to the internet at night, have not been agreed in conjunction with the social worker.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/07/2019	Full	Good
23/10/2018	Full	Good
24/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
20/06/2017	Full	Good

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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
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— understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers. (Regulation 8 (1) (2)(a)(iii))	31 March 2021
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c)) This particularly relates to staff having access to up-to-date pathway plans.	31 March 2021

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff encourage an enthusiasm for positive behaviour through the use of positive behaviour strategies in line with the child's relevant plans. In particular, that staff review, in consultation with the social workers, the use of internet access as an incentive for children. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 39, paragraph 8.13)

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: SC411030

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

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

Responsible individual: Karen Brandon

Registered manager: Jade Walsh

Inspector

Pauline Yates, Social Care Inspector

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