

SC475715

Registered provider: Witherslack Group Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the Social Care Common Inspection Framework

Information about this children's home

This is one of several homes operated by a private provider. It provides care for up to seven children who experience social and emotional difficulties.

The home registered with Ofsted in May 2014, and the manager registered in August 2020.

Six children were living at the home at the time of the inspection.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 December 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: 18 September 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: Good

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/09/2024	Full	Good
18/12/2023	Full	Good
14/12/2022	Full	Good
22/03/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are settled living in the home. Staff provide children with stability. Parents and professionals talk highly of staff and the care they provide for children. One social worker said that there had been a decrease in challenging behaviours. This demonstrates that the manager and staff are providing the child with consistent and effective care.

The home environment is welcoming and has a homely feel. The home was decorated ready for Christmas, and children had decorated the Christmas trees in the home. Children's bedrooms are individualised to each child's preferences and decorated with their own belongings. This gives children a sense of belonging.

The manager and staff support children to attend the provider's school where they are making progress from their individual starting points. However, one child who has now left the home did not consistently attend school. Staff did encourage the child to attend. However, this was not always effective.

Staff support children to move in and out of the home in a positive way. One child said that they missed living at the home when they spoke to the inspector.

Staff help children to develop their independence skills. One child enjoyed a holiday aboard. This helped them to develop their social skills.

Children are supported to develop positive relationships with staff. Children spend time with people who are important to them.

Children enjoy activities together such as trick or treating and trampolining.

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

Staff know how to keep children safe. For example, when children have been missing from home staff follow children's plans to ensure they return home safely.

Staff reflect on all incidents and share their learning in team meetings. This reflective practice helps staff to continue to make improvements to their safeguarding practices.

Children understand the boundaries that are in place to support them. Children receive consequences when appropriate. Since the previous inspection records have improved in respect of this. This ensures that the manager has oversight.

Staff use de-escalation techniques with children before using a physical intervention. However, when incidents do occur, records are not always in line with regulation. For example, the time the incident started. Although staff have received debriefs this has not always been completed by somebody who is independent.

Children know how to complain. Complaints are managed well. Staff and children are kept informed and provided with the outcome.

Staff are aware of children's risks and vulnerabilities. Children have individual risk assessments. Staff frequently update children's plans. This helps to ensure that staff have the most up to date information in relation to children. Strategies to support children are recorded in children's plans. This helps staff provide consistent care and support for children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is passionate, and she knows the children well. Staff speak highly of the registered manager, one member of staff said, 'She truly cares about both the staff and the young people, and it makes a huge difference to the way the home runs.'

Staff have the necessary skills to provide effective care for children. The staff receive training to meet the children's needs. Training is individualised to children. This helps staff to respond to children's changing needs.

Staff benefit from a detailed induction. This provides staff with relevant knowledge and skills to care for children.

Staff receive regular supervision. This provides staff with the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their practice. Staff attend team meetings which helps to support their development. Team meetings also provide staff with the opportunity to share good practice.

The registered manager has effective monitoring and review systems in place. This helps the registered manager monitor staff practice to ensure that the quality of care provided to children meets children's individual needs.

The registered manager has effective relationships with relevant professionals. This contributes to providing good all-round care for children.

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, 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 registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the date, time and location of the use of the measure within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person") has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(iii)(b)(i)(ii)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that records of restraint are accurately recorded, and staff involved with the restraint are spoken to by someone who is independent.	9 March 2026

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: SC475715

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Witherslack Group Limited

Registered provider address: Lupton Tower, Lupton, Carnforth, Lancashire, LA6 2PR

Responsible individual: Mark Jarvill

Registered manager: Victoria Ellis

Inspectors

Karen Andrews, Social Care Inspector
Stacey Ilaboya, Social Care Inspector

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