

1228090

Registered provider: Meadows Care Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. It is one of four operated under a contract with a large local authority. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children who may have experienced trauma, placement and family breakdown.

The organisation's clinical psychologist provides a service to staff and children.

The manager is in the process of registering with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 20 March 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 2 May 2018

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, there has been a change to management arrangements in the home. The previous registered manager resigned her post in December 2018. The current manager took over the day-to-day running of the home at that time. Ofsted is currently considering his application for registration.

Managers have failed to take sufficient action to address the one requirement raised at the last inspection. As a result, children do not receive consistently good quality care and support. Ofsted has raised a further three requirements at this inspection.

Managers and staff do not ensure that they arrange necessary health and safety repairs within an acceptable timescale. For example, there was an eight-week gap between staff reporting exposed wires to the maintenance team and the completion of this repair. This potentially places children at risk of harm.

The home is not a comfortable environment. This is because damaged and broken furniture has not been replaced. Also, a lack of dining room furniture means that children cannot enjoy communal meals with each other and staff. Consequently, children do not live in a welcoming, well-furnished or well-maintained home.

Children do not receive well-planned or integrated care. This is because managers do not make sure that staff are aware of the decisions made during children's statutory reviews. The aims and objectives of the placing authorities are not consistently included in internal care and support plans. This has the potential to limit children's progress and development.

Staff are competent in identifying risks that pose a threat to children's safety. However, risk assessments and risk management plans are generic and do not identify suitable or effective strategies to manage and reduce known risks to children's safety. This means that children remain at potential risk of harm.

There are occasions when managers address children's concerns appropriately. However, this is not consistent. The managers' investigation into a recent allegation did not follow internal or statutory safeguarding procedures. The scope of this investigation was insufficient to conclude whether the allegation was upheld or if children were, or are, at risk. This is detrimental to children's safety and welfare.

The current manager has taken steps to improve routine monitoring in the home to identify practice shortfalls. However, these monitoring systems remain in their infancy. This means that managers have yet to address deficits in some documents, such as how staff complete admission and discharge records. Consequently, information retained in the home is not up to date.

Staff now receive regular practice-related supervision. Managers also ensure that minutes of these meetings are available for staff to review and comment on. Consequently, staff are now able to reflect on their practice.

Children enjoy generally positive relationships with staff. They say that they are happy in the home and feel supported by staff.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/05/2018	Full	Good
12/12/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
11/07/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/11/2016	Full	Requires improvement

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
<p>The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that staff make decisions about the day-to-day arrangements for each child, in accordance with the child's relevant plans, which give the child an appropriate degree of freedom and choice; and</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6(1)(a)(2)(b)(ix)(c)(i))</p>	06/05/2019
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff—</p> <p>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make</p>	06/05/2019

arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12(2)(a)(i))	
<p>The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect; and sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect. (Regulation 34(1)(a)(b))</p> <p>This is with specific reference to the consistent implementation of this policy.</p>	06/05/2019
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; and ensure that the records are kept up to date. (Regulation 37(1)(2)(a)(b))	06/05/2019

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

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: 1228090

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Meadows Care Ltd

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

Responsible individual: Niel Shelmerdine

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Jo Stephenson, social care inspector

Patrick McIntosh, social care inspector

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