

1256658

Registered provider: Lytham Care Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private company owns the home. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties.

The registered manager resigned from the home in December 2019.

Inspection date: 6 February 2020

Date of last inspection: 10 July 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

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 required improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Two young people have left the home and one young person has been admitted to the home. Detailed planning means that the young person was able to visit the home, and staff visited her in her last placement. As a result, the young person has settled well and is making steady progress.

The young person has good access to a range of health services and she attends all appointments. She has a food allergy that requires close monitoring. Good information from healthcare professionals, risk assessments and care plans give staff all the information they require to protect her. However, a previous young person was given another young person's pain medication. In addition, a previous young person who had fallen and banged his head was not sufficiently monitored throughout the night. This does not ensure that young people receive the treatment they require or that staff follow company procedure.

The acting manager works closely with education professionals. As a result, the young person attends school and she is doing well. She has good attendance and enjoys spending time with her friends after school. Some of her friends have visited her home and stayed overnight. Therefore, she can build on friendships and partake in school activities.

The use of sanctions has helped to address the young person's unacceptable behaviour. However, the acting manager has not always evaluated the effectiveness of the sanction. Therefore, it is difficult to see whether the sanction brought about any change in the young person's behaviour. In contrast to this, the young person has received several rewards for her good behaviour, such as having beauty treatments.

Known or emerging risks are identified in the young person's care plans. Therefore, staff have a clear understanding of the young person's vulnerabilities, and clear strategies guide staff in supporting the young person in a safe way. This effective planning minimises the risks to the young person's safety and well-being.

There have been three occasions when the young person has been reported as missing to the police. Staff followed the local authority's procedure, searched the local area and contacted family members. A return interview was completed, and the young person was able to share her views about seeing friends and family more. As a result, the acting manager was able to respond to the young person and put clear arrangements in place for the young person to have free time with her friends and more contact with her family.

The previous young people's negative behaviour brought about several complaints from the neighbours. While these complaints were not addressed by the previous manager, the responsible individual has since contacted the neighbours and addressed the issues. In addition, suitable key-work activity was completed with both young people.

There is a relatively new staff team that provides a consistent approach to caring for the young person. There was a period when staff were not receiving regular supervision. The acting manager has made sure that all staff have received supervision from her. However, this was a requirement set at the last inspection and, therefore, it has been repeated. Further to this, the home was asked to provide bereavement training to all staff. This has not been done; therefore, the recommendation has been repeated.

Staff attend training and discuss pertinent topics in staff meetings. This includes training on safeguarding, understanding child sexual exploitation and county lines. This ensures that the staff group's skills and knowledge remain current.

External monitoring remains robust. The independent visitor gives a critical view on how the home is progressing. The local authority has completed a compliance visit and is satisfied with the way in which the home is being managed. Careful overview by the responsible individual identified that the previous registered manager was not completing all the tasks required to keep the home running smoothly. The previous post-holder was not robustly monitoring practice to check for shortfalls. The responsible individual addressed this with the manager, and she subsequently resigned. A new acting manager is now overseeing the home and needs to reinstate internal monitoring procedures.

The new manager is experienced and qualified and has made significant improvements in the home. She has submitted her application to Ofsted.

At the last inspection, the manager was asked to ensure that risk assessments identified emerging risks; that new admissions to the home took part in a fire evacuation; that staff support young people to manage their behaviour in and out of the home; that young people understand the risks that they place themselves in when missing from the home; that when young people refuse to attend education there is a timetable in the home to support them to re-engage in education; and that transition plans support a young person to leave or move into the home. These requirements have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/07/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
18/07/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/01/2018	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(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 registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ('a quality of care review') at least once every 6 months.</p> <p>In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating—</p> <p>the quality of care provided for children;</p> <p>the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and</p> <p>any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. (Regulation 45 (1)(2)(a)(b)(c))</p>	31/03/2020
<p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b))</p>	31/03/2020
<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—</p> <p>that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(b))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that staff's competence is checked in relation to administering medication and providing first aid.</p>	31/03/2020

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11).
In particular, ensure that staff receive bereavement training to support young people.
- The behaviour management strategy should be understood and applied at all times by staff and must be kept under review and revised where appropriate. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.34).
In particular, ensure that the manager evaluates the effectiveness of sanctions.

Information about this inspection

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.

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: 1256658

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Lytham Care Limited

Registered provider address: Lytham Care, 400 Longmoor Lane, Fazakerley, Liverpool L9 9DB

Responsible individual: Pamela Constance

Registered manager: post vacant

Inspector

Pam Nuckley, Social Care Regulatory Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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Manchester
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