

# 1240936

Registered provider: Meadows Care Limited

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 team provides a service to children and staff.

The registered manager has managed the home since June 2019. She is in the process of completing her level 5 qualification in leadership and management.

**Inspection date: 20 February 2020**

**Date of last inspection:** 23 September 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 was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Staff work with children on an individual basis to provide personalised care that meets each child's needs. This helps the children to reflect and be included in the decisions that are made about their care.

There has been an increase in challenging and negative behaviour that has meant children's progress overall is not consistent. However, children continue to make good progress in their education. This is because staff work well in partnership with schools and colleges to promote children's education. As a result, children are encouraged to reach their full potential.

Children's health needs are not consistently met. Staff have not been proactive in encouraging children to keep routine health appointments. For example, on one occasion, a child's dental appointment was not swiftly rearranged by staff.

There has been a high level of damage within the home. Although the manager is swift to ensure that repairs are undertaken, the home is not a warm and nurturing environment for children to live in. Communal hallways are bare, and children are without wardrobes and curtains in their bedrooms for longer than is necessary. This does not encourage children to develop a sense of belonging or to take pride in their home.

Managers and the therapy team have developed a variety of ways to support staff throughout this period, including reflective consultations and training to help staff meet the children's needs. This helps to develop staff's knowledge and skills to work effectively with children.

Since the last inspection, staff recruitment practices have improved. These now ensure that only suitable people work with children.

The manager has developed systems since the last inspection to help her review and to assess the quality of work being conducted with children. However, she does not evaluate patterns and trends to improve the quality of care for children.

The home's statement of purpose has not been reviewed to accurately reflect who is working in the home and to reflect their level of qualification. This gives a misleading view to external professionals looking to place children in the home and may lead to children being inappropriately placed.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/09/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/03/2019	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
23/05/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
02/11/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

## 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—</p> <p>understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children;</p> <p>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to—</p> <p>meet the needs of each child; and</p> <p>enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b)(2)(c)(i)(ii))</p>	27/03/2020
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p> <p>helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and</p> <p>promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(h))</p>	27/03/2020
<p>The registered person must—</p> <p>keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and</p> <p>notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (3)(a)(b))</p>	27/03/2020

## **Recommendations**

- Ensure each child's attendance at the necessary primary and secondary health services. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 34, paragraph 7.11)

## **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:** 1240936

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Meadows Care Limited

**Registered provider address:** Meadows Care Limited, Egerton House, Wardle Road, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 9EN

**Responsible individual:** Lara Elsegood

**Registered manager:** Megan Whitlock

## Inspector

Sue Young, Social Care Inspector

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