

2494551

Witherslack Group Ltd

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home that is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to seven children and/or young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

Inspection date: 20 January 2021

This monitoring visit

The home was last inspected in May 2019.

This monitoring visit was conducted remotely with a view to exploring the safeguarding practice at the home.

Children benefit from being cared for by a consistent team of staff, who provide them with structured routines and boundaries. Staff help the children to develop and achieve by providing them with consistent day-to-day care and support.

Children have developed positive relationships with the staff. This makes it easier for the children to speak with staff about their worries, and to feel comfortable about sharing their wishes and feelings. Individual sessions support children to understand matters that impact on their lives. One young person said, 'Staff support me. I feel happy and safe.' Another young person said, 'Staff really care.'

Comprehensive risk assessments and support plans provide the staff team with strategies for reducing and managing the risks to the children's safety.

When children go missing from the home, the staff refer to and understand the individual missing-from-care protocols. The staff attempt to locate children and work with partner agencies. Children are supported to return safely.

If the manager has concerns about staff practice, he shares these appropriately with the local authority safeguarding team in order to obtain advice and direction. When

safeguarding concerns are identified the manager takes appropriate action in line with the home's disciplinary procedures.

Effective assurance and monitoring systems provide the manager with oversight of the home. Areas for development are addressed with the staff in team meetings and individual supervision. This helps the staff to reflect on their practice and how to improve their responses to children.

Regular training builds on the staff team's existing knowledge and skills. Staff are confident in their understanding of safeguarding and medication procedures.

The manager has effective partnerships with professionals. This ensures that a consistent approach is used by everyone who is involved in when caring for and safeguarding the children. One professional said, 'They are on the ball and put the children first.'

Independent visits have taken place on site during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means there is additional scrutiny of the home's care practice. The reports also provide the regulator with an overview of how the provider is meeting children's needs.

There were no breaches of regulations found at this monitoring visit.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/11/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
01/05/2019	Full	Good

Information about this inspection

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2494551

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Witherslack Group Ltd

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

Responsible individual: Lee Riley

Registered manager: David Fairclough

Inspector

Sue Hatton, Social Care Inspector

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