

SC005048

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private company owns this home. It provides care for children with social and/or emotional difficulties. The children's home can care for up to eight children. There were eight children living in the home at the time of inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in January 2024 and holds a level 5 qualification in health and social care leadership and management. She also has managerial oversight of two other children's homes in the area, which are registered with Ofsted and have registered managers in place.

The home is in a remote area. The organisation has an independent school on the same site, which has a separate Ofsted registration. The inspector only inspected the social care provision on this site.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 June 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: 19 June 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/06/2024	Full	Good
04/07/2023	Full	Good
22/11/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/09/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children develop strong, secure relationships with staff who care for them. All children were spoken with as part of the inspection. Children said they liked staff and felt safe living in the home. As a result, children can identify trusted adults who they can share any worries or concerns with.

Since the last inspection, four children have moved into the home. Children are given the opportunity to visit the home before moving in, and they receive welcome gifts. The manager ensures that children have positive experiences of moving on from the home. Staff arrange leaving parties, and children are given personalised memory books of their time. This practice helps children to prepare well for moves.

There is a wide range of activities available for children. They enjoy taking part in activities such as swimming, visiting the skate park and dancing. Staff actively encourage children to join clubs outside of the home. This has helped children to make friends in the community and socialise with other people.

Most children attend the on-site school, which is part of the same organisation. Staff work effectively in partnership with education professionals. Children's attendance at school improves, and they make progress with their learning.

Staff support children to spend time with their families. This has increased for some children. One child's family member said, 'Staff help with contact and ensure I can see [name of child].' This effective support helps children to maintain important relationships and promotes their identity.

Children are actively involved when reviewing their personal targets and progress plans. Children are encouraged to make wish lists of all the things they want to do. This empowers children and ensures they feel heard.

There have been some improvements to the home's environment since the last inspection, including redecoration. However, some children's bedrooms have damaged furniture, and there is a lack of room personalisation. The manager has plans in place to address this, but this work has not yet been completed. There are also ongoing issues with the outside play areas of the home, with uneven artificial grass on the football pitch and potholes in the basketball area. This impacts on children's comfort while living in the home.

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

The manager and staff are clear about sharing safeguarding concerns with relevant individuals and on the process for escalating concerns, including using the whistle-blowing process. When a historical concern was raised about staff, this was taken

seriously and investigated in agreement with the local authority designated officer and the child's social worker.

When there are incidents between children, these are managed sensitively. Staff talk to children about their feelings and emotions. This important work helps children to explore better coping strategies. One child said, 'When I get angry, I use relaxing techniques to help me.' Individualised incentive reward charts are used to promote positive behaviours and help children to make progress. These systems provide children with the opportunity to earn additional money for their achievements.

Staff only use physical interventions as a last resort to keep children and others safe. Staff receive training in how to physically intervene safely and confidently. All incidents involving restraint have been reviewed by a manager, and there are reflective discussions that take place for both children and staff. This practice helps staff to implement strategies to reduce further incidents.

New staff are safely recruited. This helps to ensure that suitable adults are employed to care for children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

A dedicated and committed manager leads this home. She has high expectations and is passionate about supporting children to achieve their potential.

Staff understand the vision for the home and what is expected of them. The manager ensures that staff receive regular supervision and feel supported in their role. Staff speak highly about the manager and feel part of the home's development. One staff member said, 'It's a lovely home to work in. All the staff put the children first and go above and beyond to make the children happy during their time in the home.'

Staff have access to a wide range of training. This includes topics that are specific to the needs of the children living in the home. For example, the manager has delivered training on epilepsy management. This ensures staff are confident in managing all aspects of children's care needs.

There are meaningful team meetings, which are well attended by staff. These include discussions about the children and are used to review incidents and implement strategies. These provide a space for staff to reflect on practice and share knowledge.

There are effective working relationships between the manager and people who are important to children. Families and professionals speak positively about the care and support children receive.

The manager has good monitoring and reviewing systems in place. These systems help her to understand the home's strengths and areas for improvement. This has improved the support children receive and their experiences of living in the home.

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, The 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 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; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably. 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)(b) (2)(b)(vii)(c)(i)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that the children's bedrooms have good-quality furnishings and personalisation, staff sleep-in areas are comfortable and children's play areas are free from defects that could impact on their safety and play.	10 July 2025

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: SC005048

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor, Lansdowne House, 85 Buxton Road,
Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6LR

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

Registered manager: Hannah Stanway

Inspector

Kirsty Truesdale, Social Care Inspector

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