

SC005050

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. It provides care for up to 5 children who may have experienced childhood instability, resulting in trauma and associated complex behaviours.

At the time of this inspection, 4 children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in 2009 and holds a level 5 qualification in leadership and management for residential care services for children. In October 2024, he became a dual-registered manager, responsible for this home and another home in the same organisation.

The organisation has a registered school on the same site. This inspection focused solely on the residential provision.

Inspection dates: 1 and 2 December 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: 25 February 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/02/2025	Full	Good
27/02/2024	Full	Good
05/10/2022	Full	Good
27/07/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, no children have moved into the home, and one child has moved on. Another child has returned to live closer to their relatives. Four children currently live at the home and have done so for a significant period.

Relationships between staff and children are positive. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's needs, which contributes to positive outcomes. As a result, children are preparing to move on to foster placements and community-based homes.

Staff encourage children to develop practical skills. For example, children learn how to complete basic repairs. One child has been supported to understand the safe use of a drill, which has increased their confidence.

Leaders and staff promote children's health needs effectively. Children are encouraged to eat balanced meals and engage in regular physical activity, both at home and in the community. They attend routine health appointments, and when attendance is difficult, staff provide support through regular discussions to build confidence.

However, not all children's plans are up to date. The manager has not obtained or followed up on the progress of 2 children's most recent review minutes. This means leaders cannot be assured that staff are working in line with current plans.

Leaders and staff do not consistently support children to rebuild relationships following conflict. After a recent incident between children, there was no clear evidence of staff intervention to help repair the relationship. As a result, some issues remain unresolved.

The home environment requires improvement. Areas of the home, including children's bedrooms, show damage to flooring and walls that need repainting. Some spaces, such as bedrooms and hallways, lack personalisation and do not feel child-friendly.

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

There have been no allegations or complaints since the last inspection. The manager and staff ensure that all children understand how to raise concerns. Children report that they feel able to identify a safe person to speak to if they have any problems.

Physical interventions are used safely and only as a last resort. When they occur, leaders ensure that children and staff have the opportunity to reflect on the incident. This provides assurance that staff practice is safe and in line with training.

Staff respond effectively when children go missing from care. Clear protocols are in place and followed consistently. As a result, children are promptly located and returned home safely.

There are robust systems to promote online safety. Leaders and staff educate children about the risks associated with internet use through regular discussions. This proactive approach has led to a reduction in concerns regarding online safety.

Consequences are generally fair and effective. When used, they are linked to children's plans and behaviours. Staff explain the reasons for consequences to children, supporting their understanding. However, some records contain language that appears blaming rather than reflective of restorative practice. This reduces the educational impact of consequences.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is suitably qualified and experienced. He works closely with the deputy manager, and together they provide effective support to a committed staff team. The manager demonstrates a good understanding of both children's and staff's needs, which contributes to the continued progress of children living in the home.

Staff report feeling well supported by the manager. Leaders provide regular supervision, which promotes staff development and checks on their wellbeing. This has helped to maintain a consistent and motivated team that delivers effective care.

Leaders ensure that staff have access to a range of learning opportunities. Staff complete bespoke training relevant to the needs of the children they care for. Recently, staff have completed training on bereavement and online safety, which has increased their confidence in supporting children.

Leaders and staff work well with external professionals. One education professional told the inspector, 'We work closely with the home; children are safe. We couldn't do the job without the staff team.'

Recruitment processes are mostly safe. However, one staff member's recruitment checks did not show evidence of follow-up on a reference. It is unclear how the manager assured themselves that this staff member was safe to work in the home. This shortfall could compromise safeguarding.

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 positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— strive to gain each child's respect and trust; that each child is encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships with others. (Regulation 11 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(viii)(b))	13 January 2026
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— provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(iv))	13 January 2026

The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c))	13 January 2026
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Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure good standards of employment practice. They must ensure that recruitment, supervision and performance management of staff safeguards children and minimises potential risks to them. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)
- The registered person should ensure that all staff record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: SC005050

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

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

Registered manager: Stuart Baker

Inspector

Chanel Bryant, Social Care Inspector

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