

SC008268

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A large private provider operates this home. This home is registered to provide care for up to two children who have experienced childhood instability, resulting in trauma and associated complex behaviours.

The manager was registered with Ofsted on 17 June 2013. He holds a level 5 qualification in leadership and management.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

We last visited this setting on 28 and 29 September 2020 to carry out an assurance visit. The report is published on the Ofsted website.

Inspection dates: 16 to 17 August 2021

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 February 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/02/2020	Full	Inadequate
09/05/2018	Full	Good
27/06/2017	Full	Good
18/01/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of the inspection, two children were living in the home. Staff have a good understanding of the children's needs. This allows them to support children and build positive relationships with them.

Staff help children develop good routines. As such, children settle quickly when they move into the home. Children understand what is expected of them because of the consistent care provided.

Staff provide children with nurturing and individualised care. Staff show children acceptance and openly explore worries and concerns children have. This has had a positive impact on both children. They have developed their confidence, personal hygiene, independence skills and improved their emotional health and well-being.

One child has a good education attendance. This is a significant improvement on his previous educational experience. The other child has recently secured a school placement that will commence in the new school term.

Staff are proactive in making referrals to external agencies for additional specialised support when children need this. In addition, staff have specific training that enables them to understand the children's needs.

Staff support children to see their family and people who are important to them. Staff keep family members up to date with how their children are progressing, when appropriate to do so.

Children engage in a range of activities that they enjoy. Many activities promote physical exercise. This has had a positive impact on children's health as they have started to lead healthier lifestyles.

The home is well decorated, and children's rooms are individualised and personalised to their own tastes. This gives children a sense of belonging and pride in the home they live in.

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

Staff work hard to keep children safe. Safeguarding incidents are rare. Health and safety within the home is good. This ensures that the home is a safe space to live.

Children are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings with staff. This allows staff to address any issues or worries children may have before children present undesirable behaviours.

Staff praise and reward children's positive behaviour. When needed, sanctions for poor behaviour are issued, but these are few and far between. Staff are consistent in their approach. Staff are skilled at encouraging positive behaviour and at using clear guidance and boundaries.

Staff educate children about safeguarding, in order to improve children's knowledge. This gives children the knowledge and the tools to keep themselves safe. Topics covered include knife crime, internet safety and drugs and alcohol awareness.

Overall, safer recruitment checks for new staff are completed to check they are suitable to work with children. On one occasion, checks had not been completed to verify why an employee had left a previous employment. This was from many years ago and all other checks had been completed to check the applicant's suitability.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

An experienced and skilled registered manager is in post. He has a good understanding of the home's strengths and areas for development. This is because of the effective review and monitoring systems that are in place.

Staff are supported by the registered manager. They have regular supervision sessions and yearly appraisals. The registered manager is committed to developing his staff. He widens their knowledge and skills. This has a positive impact on the children and the care they receive.

Professionals are positive about the home and the care that staff provide the children. A social worker and a youth offending officer spoke positively to the inspector about the proactive approach the registered manager and the staff take in meeting the children's needs.

Staff have extensive training. Staff also carry out additional research to inform their practice. This ensures that staff are informed and are up to date with information.

Children know how to complain and do so, if needed. The registered manager is proactive in gathering children's views to inform the development of the home.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendation

- The registered person should maintain good employment practice. They must ensure that the recruitment 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)

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: SC008268

Provision sub-type: Children's home

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

Responsible individual: Vivien Snape

Registered manager: Martin Russell

Inspector

Lisa O'Donovan, Social Care Inspector

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