

SC021677

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today Children's Services

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is one of a number of homes run by a partnership. It is registered to provide care for up to four children. At the time of the inspection, three children were living in the home. Two of them spoke to inspectors about their experiences living in the home.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 2015.

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.

Inspection dates: 27 to 28 July 2021

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
---	-------------

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 22 October 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/10/2019	Full	Good
19/09/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/06/2018	Full	Good
05/02/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have good experiences and make significant progress when living in the home. Their life opportunities are enhanced by individualised care that is child centred and nurturing.

Children say they are happy and feel listened to. One child said, 'The staff listen and they help, it's really good. The staff are very kind and approachable. I feel I have worth when they talk to me.'

Staff provide children with stability and consistency. Children who have historically experienced many placement moves have lived in the home for several years. They are helped to settle and build positive relationships with staff who care about them and who understand their individual needs.

The staff team consistently engages children's wider networks to create positive experiences for children. They creatively support children to see people who are important to them, resulting in strengthened family relationships. Families speak highly of the support they receive from the team and the progress that children make.

Professionals are highly positive about the levels of care and communication provided by the staff team. One social worker said, 'They have a good team here who are in touch with the children. They [the children] do really well with support from the team.'

The staff team works closely with education providers. Incentives are in place to encourage children's attendance and achievements. Any issues are swiftly addressed.

Children's physical and emotional health needs are well supported. Complex health conditions are sensitively managed, and children are encouraged to engage with health professionals and specialist services. Medication practices are clear, but recordings are not always consistent.

Children move in to and on from the home in a planned way. Transitions are well managed and consider the needs of other children living in the home.

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

Children say they feel safe living in the home. Family members and professionals spoken to also share this view.

Staff have a real can-do attitude to understanding and managing risks. Individual vulnerabilities are understood and incidents are appropriately managed. Risk

management plans are detailed but inconsistencies in recording could lead to plans being misinterpreted.

Staff have a balanced approach to providing supervision and supporting children to take age-appropriate risks safely. Online safety is well understood, and staff talk to children about issues that are affecting them. Through direct-work sessions, children are supported to make safer choices. As a result, risks for most children significantly reduce when they are living in the home.

Incidents of self-harming behaviour and children going missing from home are managed effectively. Staff proactively search for children who go missing. They work as part of a multi-agency team to identify and address concerns, and frequently challenge placing authorities to ensure that processes are followed.

Relationships in the home are built on mutual respect and trust. Positive behaviours are rewarded. Sanctions focus on reparation and are used infrequently.

Staff know and understand the children well. Behaviour management plans are detailed and focus on individual triggers and responses. Incidents of physical intervention are rare, and when used, are low level.

It has been practice in the home to lock the kitchen door at night as a security measure. This restricts children's movement in and around the home and has not been reviewed to reflect the needs of children currently living in the home.

The cellar is kept locked, but children have supervised access to the laundry equipment and additional food store kept in the cellar. Inspectors identified a number of hazards in the cellar area, including gardening equipment and cleaning materials that had not been stored securely and could be easily accessed by children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is experienced and qualified. He is supported by an operations manager. Together, they have strong oversight of practice and provide clear leadership and direction to the team. Managers ensure that equality and diversity are promoted.

The staff team is stable and consistent. Many staff members have worked in the home for several years. New staff joining the team are made to feel welcome and benefit from a robust induction programme. Agency staff are not used and any shortfalls are covered by staff from across the organisation who know the children well. The statement of purpose has not been updated to reflect new staff working in the home and the workforce plan is not in place.

Staff feel supported and benefit from opportunities to further develop and progress within the organisation. They have access to relevant training and any gaps are

quickly identified and addressed. Some staff have not received supervision in line with the organisation's supervision policy and children are not routinely discussed.

The home is suitably decorated and furnished, but some areas appear tired and are in need of repair. The home would also benefit from being personalised throughout to give it a more homely feel.

The requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection have been met.

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 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; ensure that staff— treat each child with dignity and respect; provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live their life 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; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(iii)(vii)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to ensuring that repairs are completed and the home is personalised throughout to give it a more homely feel.	17 September 2021
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (2)(d))	17 September 2021

This specifically relates to ensuring that all hazardous materials are stored securely, and measures are taken to reduce risks in the cellar area.	
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children’s home’s premises; and any limitation placed on a child’s privacy or access to any areas of the home’s premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate; is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom when balanced against the needs to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) This specifically relates to reviewing the practice relating to locking the kitchen door at night.	17 September 2021
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) This specifically relates to ensuring that supervision takes place in line with the organisation’s supervision policy and focuses on the needs and progress of children.	17 September 2021

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all staff are familiar with the home’s policies on record-keeping and understand the importance of recording information in way that is clear and not open to misinterpretation. (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 62, paragraph 14.4)

- The registered person should have a workforce plan which can fulfil the workforce related requirements of regulation 16, schedule 1 (paragraphs 19 and 20). ('Guide to the children's home regulations including the quality standards', 10.8 page 53)
- The registered person should ensure that the home's statement of purpose reflects the experience and qualifications of all staff working in the home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.10)

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: SC021677

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today Children's Services

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

Responsible individual: Vivien Snape

Registered manager: Anthony Garmory

Inspectors

Caroline Bertram, Social Care Inspector
Lisa Walsh, Her Majesty's Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk/.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: www.eepurl.com/iTrDn.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2021