

SC021679

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 home is owned and operated by a private provider. Staff provide care for up to 4 children who may have social and emotional difficulties and learning disabilities.

Three children were living in the home at the time of the inspection. Inspectors spoke to all 3 children during the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2010.

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 December 2025

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 **requires improvement to be good**

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

Date of last inspection: 29 January 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/01/2025	Full	Good
20/03/2024	Full	Good
06/12/2022	Full	Good
29/06/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are happy living in the home and have positive relationships with staff, who treat them with dignity and respect. They make good progress. Their views are central to decision-making in the home. One child described the home as 'amazing', and another enjoyed holidays in their 2 chosen countries this year.

Staff support children to build and sustain relationships with their families. This means children enjoy regular and positive time with significant people in their lives.

Children attend routine health appointments. Staff act quickly to secure specialist services, such as child and adolescent mental health services, when required. Staff also use their positive relationships with children to have open and honest discussions about children's feelings and emotional wellbeing.

Most children have excellent attendance at school or college. When children are not in education, staff help them explore employment and voluntary opportunities. Staff provide informal learning opportunities in the home, which gives structure and routine.

Staff promote children's independence and individual interests, helping them to build confidence and self-esteem. Children travel independently to college and visit friends who live far away. Staff stay in regular contact to ensure their safety. At home, they develop life skills such as cooking meals for one another and keeping their home tidy.

The home is warm and welcoming, and children have their own well-furnished personal spaces. However, the second lounge is used as a staff sleep room, restricting children's access when in use and failing to provide suitable sleeping facilities for staff.

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

Children are kept safe and rarely go missing. Clear protocols guide staff if a child does go missing, and staff act promptly to locate and return them safely home. They work closely with external professionals, including the local safeguarding team and police, to protect children at risk.

Children know how to raise concerns and make complaints. When relationships between children or staff become unsettled, staff respond quickly and inform relevant professionals, including the local authority designated officer (LADO) and social workers. Children receive independent support to express their views and, where appropriate, are given opportunities to restore relationships.

Staff understand children's risks and have purposeful conversations about safety and wellbeing, including substance misuse. Room searches have been carried out for one child when staff have had concerns about their welfare. Children understand why these checks are necessary and receive support from staff during key-work sessions.

Staff know the children well and understand their behaviours. They use diversion and de-escalation techniques effectively. On one occasion, staff had been required to use physical restraint to ensure a child's safety. Both children and staff are given opportunities to reflect following incidents.

Staff promote positive behaviour and celebrate achievements, supporting children's self-worth. Negative consequences are discussed with the child and, when possible, they are restorative in nature. The staff team is involved in reviewing the effectiveness of consequences. However, the manager's evaluative oversight is not evident in the records.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

There is an experienced and appropriately qualified registered manager in post. A dedicated deputy manager supports him. Systems are in place to monitor records and incidents, but oversight is inconsistent. For example, the manager was unaware of a child's referral to a specialist substance misuse service by their social worker.

The manager always reports safeguarding incidents to relevant professionals. However, following a child's allegation, the manager did not provide the LADO with a clear and consistent account of the investigation. The child did speak with the police and their social worker, ensuring independent oversight. During the investigation, staff were temporarily moved to another home. Although the manager reviewed the effectiveness of this arrangement, it was not recorded in the written risk assessment.

Leaders and managers evaluate children's risks and provide strategies for staff to follow. However, one child's risk rating lacks current details on the extent of their substance misuse and required room searches. Another child's historical information has not been fully captured. While the manager evaluated the child's risks and their impact on other children, this was not recorded in the appropriate documents.

The manager speaks positively about the children's progress. He regularly reviews the home's quality of care, sharing the report with relevant professionals. While the report describes children's progress in detail, it lacks direct feedback from them or staff, limiting objective insight into care quality and experiences. It also does not include an action plan for future improvements.

The staff team is stable and consistent. Safer recruitment checks are completed, and staff are closely monitored during induction. However, leaders and managers have

not always fully explored information obtained during recruitment to ensure transparency.

Staff have completed a broad range of training and are qualified or working toward relevant childcare qualifications. However, they have not undertaken specialist training required to meet the needs of children with autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Team meetings are regular, well attended and valued for sharing information. Staff supervision is practice-focused but not always completed within agreed timescales.

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 leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(c) (2)(a)(c)(h)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that they have oversight of children's referrals to specialist services. The registered person must ensure that all communication with safeguarding professionals is accurate and consistent. The registered person must record their oversight of risk assessments and impact assessments. Documents must provide the most up-to-date information on the nature and extent of children's risks. The registered person must ensure that staff have the necessary training to meet the needs of the children, such as training on autism and ADHD.	9 February 2026

The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that all employees receive regular practice-related supervision in line with what is stipulated in supervision agreements. This requirement is restated.	9 February 2026
The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children (“a quality of care review”) at least once every 6 months. In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating— the quality of care provided for children; the feedback and opinions of children about the children’s home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c) (5)) Specifically, the manager’s quality of care review must contain and consider feedback from children and staff.	9 February 2026
The registered person must ensure that— the privacy of children is appropriately protected; 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 area of the home’s premises—	9 February 2026

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 as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe.

(Regulation 21 (a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))

Specifically, the registered person must ensure that communal areas of the home are not used as a staff sleep facility or restrict access for children to parts of their home.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all consequences given to help children manage their behaviour are subject to systems of regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair. This oversight must be recorded. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.36)
- The registered person should be responsible for maintaining good employment practice. They must ensure that the recruitment of staff safeguards children and minimises potential risks to them. Specifically, the registered person must evidence further exploration of information received during staff recruitment processes to ensure full transparency. ('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: SC021679

Provision sub-type: Children's home

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

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

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Nigel Evans

Inspectors

Samantha Cooper, Social Care Inspector
Cheryl Field, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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