

SC021679

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to four children with social and emotional difficulties and learning disabilities. Three children were living in the home at the time of the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2010.

Inspection dates: 29 and 30 January 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, considering	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: 20 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/03/2024	Full	Good
06/12/2022	Full	Good
29/06/2021	Full	Good
20/06/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good.

Children speak positively about their experiences of living in the home. One child said, 'They put my head back on my shoulders.' Children are listened to, and their views and feelings are considered as part of decision-making. For instance, children choose how their bedrooms are decorated, the food they eat and the activities they take part in.

The manager and staff support children to attend education. Staff ensure that they have individual education plans in place to meet their needs. Two children are attending education while one is currently receiving tutor support in the home. One of the children who has now moved out of the home has started a college course of her choice.

Staff have a good understanding of children's health needs. Staff work in partnership with other professionals to help children understand and manage past traumas that effect their emotional well-being.

Two children have moved out of the home since the last inspection. These moves were managed well by staff, who ensured that the children were well prepared and supported with the move.

Staff maintain regular communication with the children's social workers and family members. They support and facilitate the children's visits to family members. This promotes the children's sense of identity and enables them to retain positive links with the people who are important to them.

Children are supported to develop life skills in readiness for adulthood. They are provided with opportunities to develop new skills, such as cooking and personal care, with good support and encouragement from staff. This helps children to learn the necessary skills that will enable them to move successfully into adulthood.

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

Staff regularly update risk assessments to address emerging risks. Staff manage challenging situations calmly and thoughtfully. They maintain a good balance between managing risks and ensuring children's safety, showing a clear understanding of the importance of allowing children to take suitable risks.

Staff are calm and caring in their approach. They use preventative behaviour management techniques and positive relationships when helping children to manage their anxieties and frustrations. Overall, children respond positively to this approach.

When children go missing from home, staff follow missing-from-home protocols to ensure that they are located quickly. Staff are aware of the key people in the children's

lives and can quickly contact them during any missing episodes to ensure the child's safety.

Staff spend time with children, discussing topics like keeping themselves safe, which helps them understand how to manage risks. This approach supports the children's growth in a safe and nurturing environment. It highlights the staff's professionalism and commitment to the children's well-being.

Staff have consistent boundaries with children. They put in place contracts with children to ensure that expectations are clear, such as the use of their mobile phone or online resources. Staff use incentives to encourage children's positive behaviour. Children know the expectations on their behaviour and experience consistency of care. Staff work with the children on issues related to online safety, particularly risks of sharing personal communications. This included targeted support for one child.

When staff give consequences to children, they are fair, proportionate and linked to the behaviour shown. Consequences are restorative and give the child the opportunity to fix the issue. Children are helped to understand the impact of their behaviour on themselves and others.

Staff are proactive in supporting children when they feel overwhelmed by their feelings. Individual sessions support children to feel safe and explore behaviours in relation to self-harm and going missing from the home. Children are helped to manage distressing emotions and are encouraged to learn from incidents.

Complaints are rare. When children do make a complaint, they are taken seriously by the manager, who ensures that children receive the outcome of their complaint. This helps children to know they are listened to, and their concerns can be resolved.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The team is led by a qualified, dedicated, child-centred and experienced registered manager. The manager knows the children well and has a good understanding of their needs and behaviours.

The manager and staff team are committed to ensuring that children enjoy a good standard of care and have a memorable experience of living at this home. They are proud to work at this home and know that they make a difference to children's lives.

Staff do not always receive regular supervision. Most supervision is informal, with many unscheduled conversations and practice discussions, but these are not always recorded. Appraisals lack structured feedback, so staff may not get clear guidance on their performance or development. While these informal talks are helpful, the lack of consistent practice discussions means staff may not always have the support they need to meet the children's changing needs, which could affect the quality of care.

Staff morale is good. The team is committed to providing high-quality care and is motivated. Staff find the manager personable and approachable. They say they benefit from his ongoing support and determination to achieve positive outcomes, which helps improve the lives of the children

Team meetings take place regularly and offer a good balance of practical discussions about routines in the home and opportunities for staff to discuss how they feel. Staff say they feel well supported. Training for staff is suitably comprehensive to inform staff practice. Specialist training is obtained if necessary to meet the needs of the children.

The manager and staff have established good working relationships with other professionals, such as teachers and social workers. Effective communication ensures that information is shared quickly, which helps to keep children safe.

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 registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) This relates specifically to all employees receiving regular practice-related supervision in line with what is stipulated in supervision agreements.	1 May 2025

Recommendations

- All staff must have their performance and fitness to carry out their role formally appraised at least once annually. This appraisal should consider, where reasonable and practical, the views of other professionals who have worked with the staff member over the year and children in the home's care. This also needs to be practice related with SMART goals for the forthcoming year. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.5)

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 Limited

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

Registered manager: Nigel Evans

Inspector

Mathew Morris-Jones, Social Care Inspector
Sarah Billett, Regulatory Inspection Manager

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 looked-after children, 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.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://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 2025