

SC021683

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care for up to four children who may have social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities. At the time of this inspection, two children were living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2020.

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 September 2023

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: 27 February 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/02/2023	Full	Good
04/11/2021	Full	Good
05/02/2020	Full	Good
12/09/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, two children have left the home. Both children had well-supported and planned moves to semi-independent living. Staff helped the children to develop their life skills to promote their readiness for adulthood. One child who has recently left the home said, 'Everyone was very supportive. The staff are all amazing.'

Children enjoy school and benefit from excellent school attendance. Staff have high aspirations for children. They work in partnership with the children's schools to promote their educational progress, learning and achievements.

Children enjoy positive relationships with staff and benefit from well-planned care that promotes their needs effectively. A child said, 'It's been perfectly fine. I get on well with everyone.'

Staff meet children's health needs effectively. Staff ensure that children have access to the services that they need to be healthy, and they support children to attend their health appointments.

Staff support children to see their families and friends. As a result, children sustain their relationships with the people who are most important to them.

Children know how to make a complaint and their rights are promoted effectively. There have been no complaints from children since the last inspection.

Staff provide children with positive activities and promote their interests and hobbies. Children enjoy going to the youth club, indoor rock-climbing, theme parks, cinema and bowling. A social worker said, '[Name of child] is always doing activities, at least two or three times a week, and they speak highly about being there.'

Staff ensure that the home is physically safe and provides children with a homely and comfortable living environment. However, a recent water leak has caused minor water damage to an arch in the downstairs hallway, which requires the provider's attention.

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

Staff prioritise the safety of children effectively. Risks associated with children are well known and understood by staff. Staff use risk-management plans effectively to reduce risks to children and protect them from harm. Staff manage children's behaviours safely and effectively.

Staff are trained in de-escalation. This ensures that staff know how to support children in times of crisis to help them manage their feelings and behaviours safely. This approach has proved effective, with no restraints being used by staff since the

last inspection. A child said, 'They helped me a lot. Especially [name of staff], who always gave me such good advice.'

The consequences staff use to address negative behaviour are fair and rewards are effective in acknowledging and reinforcing children's positive behaviour.

There have been no missing-from-home episodes since the last inspection. Additionally, there are no current concerns with children being at risk of significant harm.

Staff maintain highly effective partnerships with the police and other safeguarding agencies to promote the safety of children. A social worker said, 'My child has done really well, and they're settled and really like living there.'

Significant incidents are reported to the appropriate authorities. This ensures that the right action is taken by staff and professionals to keep children safe from harm. Staff are trained in child protection so that they know how to deal with any allegations and report suspected abuse.

Safer recruitment practices are followed. This ensures that those employed to work with children are recruited and vetted carefully to keep children safe from unsuitable people.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Children benefit from an experienced registered manager and qualified, well-trained and experienced staff. The manager leads by example and provides staff with a common purpose and clear sense of direction.

The manager plays a crucial role in developing partnerships with all external professionals to prioritise the needs of children. This ensures that children benefit from the best possible help and all-round support. A child said, 'The staff are very supportive, understanding and amazing.'

The manager ensures that regular, child-focused team meetings are held to help staff reflect on the progress and experiences of children. Practice-related supervision also ensures that staff are supported to carry out their caring responsibilities effectively.

A stable staff team is employed to provide continuity of care for children. This ensures that children have stability and consistency in their lives. When existing staff are unavailable, bank staff are used to cover staff shortages, so that agency staff are not needed or used.

The manager has addressed the requirements and recommendations from the last inspection. The manager makes effective use of the home's internal and external monitoring activities to eradicate any weaknesses and secure improvement in the care provided to children.

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 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 feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it. (Regulation 45 (1) (2)(b)) This relates specifically to the inclusion, evaluation and consideration of the views of children and other relevant stakeholders.	27 October 2023

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the arch in the downstairs hallway that has been damaged by a water leak is repaired and redecorated. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: SC021683

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

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Nigel Evans

Inspector

Anthony Kyem, Social Care Inspector

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