

SC049189

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provider states in their statement of purpose that this home provides care for up to three children with social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2020.

Inspection dates: 6 and 7 September 2022

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: 25 March 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: improved effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/03/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
16/11/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/03/2020	Full	Good
19/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children feel comfortable and safe in their home. Staff are persistent in their efforts to engage children in several activities and social groups. All children have enjoyed a summer holiday away together. As a result, children have grown in confidence and are making significant progress in several areas of their lives.

The home environment has been improved after seeking the views of the children. Children have begun to invest more in their bedrooms and enjoy spending time alone and with others. Photos of the children enjoying activities together also make the home feel homely. However, children do not receive the level of support they need to ensure that their bedrooms are clean.

Staff receive support to help them understand children's mental health needs. As a result, children are participating more and are more able to express themselves. However, strategies advised in the children's education, health and care plans (EHC plans) are not underpinning the day-to-day care to support children with learning difficulties.

Children are receiving education that meets their needs. The manager has advocated strongly for children's best interests after seeking their views. As a result, huge progress has been made in re-integrating children into educational settings.

Children are supported and encouraged to spend time with family and friends. Staff understand the positive impact of wider networks of support being available for children when they move into adulthood. Staff take steps to include children when they are moving out in line with their plans. This helps children to feel more prepared.

Staff support children with building life skills. For example, children are now able to travel independently. This means that they are more likely to enjoy a range of life experiences and be more equipped when they live independently.

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

Multi-agency communication and planning help to keep children safe. Staff's close working relationships with external agencies mean that support is tailored to individual children's needs. As a result, staff can provide effective support for children who self-harm.

The manager and staff have a good understanding of children's individual risks. Risk management plans are reviewed and updated regularly. When children go missing from the home, staff actively look for them and are creative at minimising future risks. This helps children to be safe and at less risk of exploitation.

Bullying is not accepted in or out of the home. The manager has acted quickly to address any concerns and ensure that the necessary safeguards are in place. This means that children feel listened to and safe.

Positive behaviour is encouraged and staff have well-developed strategies in place to support children. This means that children benefit from clear boundaries and are supported to understand what behaviour is safe and acceptable.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is qualified and experienced. She makes an effort to develop the skills and knowledge of the staff and motivates her team. As a result, the staff team has remained stable and committed to caring for the children. One independent reviewing officer said, 'It is the sheer time, commitment and consistency that staff have given to [name of child] that has enabled him to make the progress he has.'

The manager has a good understanding of the events in the children's lives and is a strong advocate. She has challenged other services when necessary to ensure that decision-making considers the views of the children. The manager has also sought an independent advocate for children when necessary. This means that children feel heard and that their views are important.

Staff have the skills and knowledge to care for children. Staff receive regular training and have encouraged children to also take part in learning opportunities. However, staff are not consistent in their knowledge of how to support children with learning difficulties.

The home is visited monthly by an independent person. The manager has also completed a review of the quality of care. However, feedback is not always requested or reflected on. This is a missed opportunity to seek a more holistic view of the care provided and make positive changes that can have an impact on the children's care.

Other professionals speak highly about the level of care provided. One professional said, 'Without this placement I am convinced that we may have lost [name of child] and he would never have found himself.'

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that managers and staff make the best use of feedback from independent and internal monitoring (including under regulations 44 and 45) to ensure continuous improvement. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 55, paragraph 10.24)
- The registered person should ensure that staff understand and implement the strategies advised in children's EHC plans to support children with learning difficulties. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 26, paragraph 5.4)
- The registered person should ensure that children are supported in line with individual needs to have a clean bedroom. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.20)

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: SC049189

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

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

Responsible individual: Vivien Snape

Registered manager: Danielle Leacock

Inspectors

Sylvia Eboigbe, Social Care Inspector

Kerri Lynch-Mahoney, Social Care Inspector

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