

SC049189

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today Services

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for a maximum of three children and young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The manager has applied to Ofsted for registration for this home.

Inspection date: 19 March 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 16 July 2018

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

The manager and staff positively demonstrate their knowledge of the needs of the children and young people. They speak about them with affection and understanding. This translates into strong ambition and action for the group of residents, who make the best possible progress. Considering the children and young people's previous placements, it is evident from their memory files just how much progress they have made in this home.

Relationships between children and young people and staff at the home are good. Children and young people have developed mutually beneficial friendships. The children and young people confirm that they are engaging in positive activities in the community, seeing their friends or enjoying group activities with each other. Children and young

people told the inspector that they are settled and happy, and that they are being supported to maintain good educational attendance and attainment.

Transitions to and from the home are led by the individual needs of the child or young person. At the time of referral, matching is undertaken that considers the impact on the children and young people already living at the home. The home is settled, having had two discharges. One young person is making a success of semi-independent living and another moved because of his disruptive behaviour. Two young people have joined the home, and positive planning and introductory visits for these admissions took place.

The manager and staff are trained to manage safeguarding concerns effectively and in a timely manner. They follow procedures well. Recording is clear and provides the reader with a good understanding of the situation and the actions taken in response.

Children and young people are helped to keep themselves safe and protected. Most rarely go missing. When children and young people do go missing or are absent without authorisation, staff are proactive in completing welfare checks, and safe and well visits. This level of vigilance and proactive practice has led to a significant reduction in the children and young people's risk-taking behaviours.

The effective implementation of risk assessments ensures that the children and young people are safe. They regularly review their risk assessments with staff during key-work sessions. The children and young people understand why risks may change and what they need to do to manage or reduce risks. Children and young people do take age-related risks and staff are clear in their knowledge about the strategies to follow to keep the children and young people safe.

Children and young people are rewarded for their positive behaviour. Since the last inspection, staff have used physical intervention on two occasions in order to keep children and young people safe or prevent damage to property. The manager's review of these incidents is thorough in the records kept in the home. She provides reflective sessions for the staff and debriefs for the children and young people. This provides the necessary oversight of staff practice during the event, and identifies the children and young people's patterns of behaviour. This contributes to areas of improvement and learning for young people and staff.

There have been no complaints since the last inspection and no complaints were raised by children or young people during this inspection. The staff team sensitively supports the children and young people to have contact with their families and friends.

The home provides young people with a physically safe, appropriately secure, warm, comfortable and homely environment. Health and safety arrangements are managed effectively, which ensures that a safe environment is provided for children and young people, staff and visitors.

The previous registered manager left the home in February 2019 to take up a new position in the organisation. There is a qualified manager who leads the home well. She

shows exceptional leadership and support, proving to be a role model for the high standards of care that she expects. She uses reflective practice in formal supervision and team meetings to support staff to strive towards continually improving the standard of care. The postholder has applied to Ofsted for registration.

Since the last inspection, the manager has completed a detailed review of the quality of care provided. Her evaluation clearly identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the home and areas for further improvement. Regular visits by the independent person continue to take place. The manager responds effectively to the recommendations made in the independent person's monthly report.

The manager demonstrates her enthusiasm for further developing the home and the skill sets of the staff. She advocates well on behalf of the children and young people and she will challenge external professionals in order to make sure the children and young people receive the services that meet their needs.

The three recommendations made at the last inspection have been met. No requirements or recommendations are made at this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2018	Full	Good
29/01/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
24/05/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/02/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

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 Services

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

Responsible individual: Mrs Vivien Snape

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Mark Kersh, social care inspector

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