

SC049189

Registered provider: The Partnership of Care Today

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provider states in its 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 date: 25 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 16 November 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

There are three children currently living in the home. None were spoken to during this inspection. Overall, progress for all three children is positive.

One child is preparing to move into more independent living accommodation. They have been supported to take steps towards travelling independently and are able to carry out tasks in the home, such as ironing, preparing food and decorating. Other children are also able to develop their independence skills appropriate to their age and levels of learning.

Progress for one child has been particularly positive in relation to their confidence. When they arrived at the home, they were very isolated, and found communication with staff and other children very difficult. Staff have worked hard to develop positive relationships and engage the child in activities. The child now engages with staff willingly and has a better relationship with other children living in the home. Mealtimes have become more communal and they will take part in activities inside and outside the home with other children. This has been significant progress.

One child experienced a small number of missing-from-home incidents shortly after moving into the home. Staff took action to attempt to locate the child and follow the protocols in place for when a child goes missing from home. Staff have good communication with school and have agreed steps to reduce the likelihood of the child not returning home after school. To date, this has been effective. The inspector reviewed the child's risk assessment together with their individual plan to manage missing-from-home incidents; there were some discrepancies. However, these have no actual effect on the care of the child. Staff spoken to understand the action they should take to actively look for the child. The child's risk assessment was updated during the inspection.

Two of the children are engaged in formal education. The attendance of both children is positive and they have ambitions for their future. The other child has recently had a home tutor identified. Through no fault of the child, they have not received any sessions due to unavailability of the tutor. The staff have been engaging the child in informal education. This has progressed from simple puzzles to documentaries, which staff ask questions about or support the child to create a written assessment of what they have learned. Children also have access to an online learning hub, where they have been able to access additional learning.

Generally, children are healthy and have been supported to attend routine health appointments. Children are encouraged to exercise and take advantage of the local area and walk in the parks and woodland. When behaviours have escalated, staff have recognised the triggers and taken steps to understand and distract children so that they do not cause themselves any harm. During a recent incident, staff acted appropriately and supported the child who left the home. Staff have identified a particular challenging time of year and, as a result, access to activities has been increased and a waking night staff member has been introduced to increase the level of supervision. Staff liaise with other professionals and have been able to support a reduction in medication for one of the children. Staff have received training to be able to respond to incidents of self-harm.

The home's statement of purpose indicates that the home can provide care for four children. Although there are enough bedrooms in the property to accommodate more children, the registration conditions only allow the home to care for up to three children. No additional children have been placed at the home and the conditions of registration have not been breached.

The requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/11/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/03/2020	Full	Good
19/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
16/07/2018	Full	Good

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

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that the home's statement of purpose reflects the correct number of children that can be accommodated in the home. ('Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.6)

Information about this inspection

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.

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
SK2 6LR

Responsible individual: Vivien Snape

Registered manager: Danielle Leacock

Inspector

Mark Broomhead, Social Care Inspector

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