

SC053145

Registered provider: Partners in Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to three children who display a number of antisocial behaviours and/or have emotional difficulties.

The current manager is new in post. An application to register as the registered manager was received by Ofsted on 22 December 2019. The current manager is working towards the relevant qualification.

Inspection dates: 16 to 17 January 2020

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: 19 March 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: improved effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
09/05/2018	Full	Good
05/12/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/03/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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, 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 notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there or if there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 4(c)(e))	28/02/2020
The health and well-being standard is that the health and well-being needs of children are met, children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff help each child to achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans; understand the child's health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child's health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding; take part in activities, and attend any appointments, for the purpose of meeting the child's health and well-being needs; and understand and develop skills to promote the child's well-being. (Regulation 10(1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))	28/02/2020
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect and sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect. The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular, provide for records to be kept of an allegation of abuse or neglect, and the action taken in response and describe the measures which may be necessary to protect children following an allegation of abuse or neglect. (Regulation 34(1)(a)(b)(d), (2)(d)(e))	28/02/2020
The registered person must ensure that a record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of any investigation. (Regulation 39(3))	28/02/2020

Recommendations

- Staff should continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them. Where there are safeguarding concerns for a child, their placement plan, agreed between the home and their placing authority, must include details of the steps the home will take to manage any assessed risks on a day to day basis. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.5)

In particular, ensure that assessments and plans take into account how to manage and monitor risk-taking behaviours and associated hazards.

- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, and that the training available meets the needs of the children in their care. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)
- The registered person should develop and implement an internal quality assurance monitoring and reviewing system to ensure that practice is consistently good and ensure the continuous improvement of practice. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 55, paragraph 10.24)

In particular, the quality assurance of practice should be regularly monitored to identify shortfalls and enhance practice.

- Staff should be familiar with the home's policies on record keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children live in a warm, caring and supportive home. Children respond well to the structured, yet nurturing, routines. They also enjoy the opportunities available to them. Children have excellent relationships with staff and enjoy living here. Staff know the children well and help them to achieve good outcomes. Consequently, children make good progress living here.

When children arrive, they are not always engaged in education. Staff are proactive and endeavour to secure educational provision that meets their individual needs. In addition, staff support children to make informed decisions about their futures. This helps them to understand the implications of any decisions that they make. This supports children to develop independence skills.

Children receive help and support to understand their feelings and emotions. This is particularly evident in supporting children to regulate their behaviours. This helps children to make good progress. This area of practice is a strength of the home.

Staff seek specialist support and advice when needed. However, staff do not always act in a timely way or access support that is readily available to them. As a result, there are missed opportunities, and thus drift and delay in helping children.

Children have access to a range of activities, including holidays and days out. They have the opportunity to explore their interests and to experience new things. These opportunities enrich children's lives. Furthermore, they support them to develop their social skills and grow in confidence.

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

Staff are clear of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. Staff empower children to make good decisions. Furthermore, staff help children to explore the reasons behind their risk-taking behaviours and how to manage and minimise them. This has a positive effect on children's lives.

Children's risk assessments and plans are clear and reflect the individual children. However, they do not always consider the wider implications of the risk and the associated hazards. In addition, some risk-taking behaviours are not seen as a risk and, as a result, there are no assessments or plans in place. This particularly relates to children's physical health.

Staff safeguard children well. However, the policies and procedures relating to safeguarding are not always followed. Information reviewed on inspection showed that complaints and subsequent investigations have not, in their entirety, been managed in line with policy and procedures. It is important to report, however, that this has not had a negative impact on the children.

When staff understand the risks, they manage them well. They work in a proactive way with partner agencies, and the multi-agency safeguarding plans are clear.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The managers and staff have high expectations of themselves and high aspirations for children. They are passionate and committed to the work that they do.

The manager and staff work well with other professionals. Professionals speak positively about the partnership working and the progress that children make. One social worker said, 'I am extremely impressed with the management at [name of the home]. They are professional and approachable, and have a good knowledge of looking after our most vulnerable young people'.

Staff have access to mandatory training and complete this in a timely way. This helps them to develop, both individually and as a team. However, staff have not undertaken training that is specific and focused on meeting all the children's needs. The manager recognises this gap in knowledge and plans to explore the training and advice required.

Management oversight and quality assurance are not yet consistent across all areas of practice. Furthermore, they lack analysis. Subsequently, they do not always identify areas of practice that need some attention and development. Neither are the recording standards consistent. In some instances, information is unclear, inaccurate or contradictory. However, there are pockets of practice where quality assurance and recording are undertaken to a high standard.

Managers and staff are committed to developing the home and enhancing their practice. They are able to reflect and learn from their experiences. This provides them with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities further.

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 difference 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.

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: SC053145

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Partners in Care Limited

Registered provider address: Rouse House, 2 Wyther Lane, Kirkstall, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS5 3BT

Responsible individual: Kathryn Seal

Registered manager: N/A

Inspector

Lisa Gregoire-Parker, social care inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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