

SC441717

Registered provider: Partners in Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is run by a private provider. It offers care for up to 2 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in September 2018.

At the time of this inspection, there were 2 children living in the home. Both children spoke with the inspectors.

Inspection dates: 28 and 29 April 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account

requires improvement

How well children and young people are helped and protected

requires improvement

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

requires improvement

The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 11 June 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/06/2025	Full	Good
20/01/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/11/2023	Full	Good
23/08/2022	Full	Good

Summary of findings

Children's experiences are affected by an unsettled staff culture in the home. Staff do not consistently demonstrate the nurturing and therapeutic approach needed to build trusting relationships and support children effectively. Staff do not always balance children's wishes and feelings with their safeguarding responsibilities. This means that children have not always received the level of care, support and protection that they need.

Oversight by leaders and managers is not effective and weaknesses in staff practice are not consistently addressed or learned from.

Children make some progress, including with regard to school attendance and developing independence. Children report feeling safe and the manager knows the children well.

Children are supported to celebrate important cultural and religious events, and to access food and activities that are meaningful to them. Children maintain links with people and communities who are important to their identity.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement

Children are exposed to staff conflict and unprofessional behaviour. This has a negative impact on children's daily lives, including with regard to their willingness to access communal areas of the home and develop relationships with some staff.

Staff do not consistently encourage children's sense of belonging. On occasion, one child has remained in their bedroom for long periods without staff checking on their welfare. Children routinely eat meals in their bedrooms. Staff do not encourage shared mealtime routines or positive social experiences within the home.

Children are making progress in some areas of their lives. One child has good attendance at school, and staff support and encourage regular educational attendance despite barriers being in place. Feedback from the school is positive. Staff are supporting another child to develop their independence skills, due to the stability of them living in the home for a longer period than in any previous home.

The front and rear garden areas are poorly maintained and do not provide children with inviting spaces in which to relax, play or spend time together. This limits children's opportunities to enjoy being outside and reduces the overall feel of the environment.

Staff support children to celebrate important cultural and religious events, to access food and activities that are meaningful to them and to maintain links with people and communities who are important to their identity.

Children's health needs are well supported. Staff understand children's individual health needs. Children receive their medication as required and are supported to attend routine and specialist health appointments. This helps children to stay healthy and promotes their physical and emotional wellbeing.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement

Leaders and managers do not always provide children with clear and consistent messages about when information about them needs to be shared with staff and involved professionals to help keep them safe. At times, managers take an overly cautious approach to confidentiality. As a result, staff do not always have the insight they need to understand how children are feeling or to respond effectively to their needs.

Staff are caring and want to maintain positive relationships with children. However, they rely on external professionals to oversee some aspects of children's safety. As a result, opportunities to take decisive action to reduce risk are sometimes missed.

Children say that they feel safe living in their home. Leaders and managers recognise the need to strengthen safeguarding practice and have demonstrated some awareness of the need for greater oversight and support.

Staff have carried out work with children around risk and safety. However, this is not yet consistent or sufficiently reflective following incidents. Opportunities to help children understand risk, reflect on incidents and develop safer choices are sometimes missed, limiting children's ability to build their understanding and independence over time.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement

Leaders and managers do not provide consistently effective oversight of the home. Monitoring and review systems are not effective in identifying shortfalls in practice or ensuring that concerns are addressed promptly. Incidents are not consistently evaluated in sufficient depth and opportunities to reflect on practice and learn from events are overlooked.

The manager is committed to improving the quality of care provided to children and demonstrates genuine care for them. Children speak positively about the manager and describe her as someone they trust and can talk to.

Supervision is not used effectively to support staff development. A new format has been introduced since the last inspection; however, this is not fully embedded in practice.

Supervision sessions do not always provide sufficient challenge or address weaknesses in practice effectively. This means that staff are not consistently supported to reflect on and improve their work with children.

Staff have access to relevant training to support them in their roles. However, leaders and managers do not always ensure that this learning is embedded into practice and have not ensured that staff complete their childcare qualification in the set timescale. This means that staff do not consistently demonstrate the skills and confidence needed to respond effectively to children's needs, particularly when risks arise.

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person 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 leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose; understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(f)(h)) In particular, the manager must have effective oversight and monitoring systems to ensure that shortfalls in practice are identified promptly, addressed effectively and used as opportunities for learning and reflection. In particular, the registered manager must ensure that staff consistently model professional, respectful behaviour and that conflict between staff is addressed promptly and effectively and does not impact on children.	25 June 2026

In addition, the registered manager must also ensure that supervision sessions are used effectively to provide staff with challenge, support and guidance to improve the quality of care provided to children.	
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— meet each child’s behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child’s relevant plans; strive to gain each child’s respect and trust; understand how children’s previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children; and are provided with supervision and support to enable them to understand and manage their own feelings and responses to the behaviour and emotions of children, and to help children to do the same. (Regulation 11 (1)(a) (2)(a)(i)(viii)(ix)(x)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that staff consistently monitor children’s welfare, including when children spend extended periods in their bedrooms, and take prompt action to support their emotional wellbeing. In addition, the registered manager must ensure that staff build positive relationships with children that are based on mutual respect and understanding and that staff help each child to develop the emotional resilience and skills they need to manage their relationships successfully.	25 June 2026

The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; and take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(ii)(iii)(vi)) In particular, the registered manager must ensure that staff understand and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. Staff must be supported to confidently monitor, be professionally curious and respond to identified risks. In particular, the registered manager must ensure that children receive clear and consistent explanations about when information about them may need to be shared to help keep them safe and well cared for. In particular, the registered manager must ensure that staff complete consistent, reflective work with children following incidents, so that children are helped to understand risk and develop safer choices.	25 June 2026
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and	30 July 2026

enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home.
(Regulation 6 (1)(a) (2)(c)(i)(ii))

The registered person must ensure that external areas of the home are well maintained, safe and secure.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that all staff are supported to achieve the relevant qualification within the time frame specified in regulation. ('Guide to the Children's Home Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.6)

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: SC441717

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Partners in Care Limited

Registered provider address: 2 The Calls, Leeds LS2 7JU

Responsible individual: David Shaw

Registered manager: Natalie Cain

Inspectors

Bethany Riley, Social Care Inspector

Sally Mitchell, Regulatory Inspection Manager

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