

# SC010090

Registered provider: Partners in Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The home has two houses on one site. It is registered to take up to four children and young people of either gender with a variety of needs. The home will consider children and young people who:

- are victims of abuse, whether physical, sexual or emotional
- are going through some form of crisis in their lives
- have complex behavioural difficulties which have an impact on their well-being
- are at risk of exploitation
- have offending or anti-social behaviour.

**Inspection dates:** 3 to 4 July 2018

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

How well children and young people are helped and protected requires improvement to be good

The effectiveness of leaders and managers Good

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 22 August 2017

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/08/2017	Full	Good
08/03/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness
11/07/2016	Full	Good
02/03/2016	Interim	Sustained 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
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff—</p> <p>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare. That the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)(iv)(vi)(b))</p>	29/08/2018
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home —</p> <p>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. (Regulation 13 (2)(f))</p>	29/08/2018
<p>The care planning standard is that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that there are arrangements in place to ensure the effective induction of each child into the home; manage and review the placement of each child in the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(b)(i)(ii))</p>	29/08/2018

In particular, that all young people's needs are fully assessed and considered when placing new young people in the home.	
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## Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that when a child needs additional health or well-being support, staff should work with the child's placing authority and other agencies to enable proper and immediate access to any specialist service and that specialist advice is used to inform practice. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards, page 34, paragraph 7.10)
- The ethos of the home should support each child to learn, emphasising the value of independent study and reading for enjoyment. The home must make available suitable facilities, equipment and resources for learning. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 29, paragraph 5.18) In particular, ensure that each child receives an educational daily routine and has access to educational resources during the school day if they are not accessing full-time education.

## Inspection judgements

### Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children and young people make good progress living here. Children and young people recognise the progress that they make. They enjoy a nurturing environment and have strong and trusting relationships with staff. Children and young people say that they are happy living here.

Staff offer consistent care to the children and young people. They work effectively together to ensure that children receive positive messages. Staff empower children and young people to take responsibility for their behaviours and choices and, as a result, children learn to self-regulate their emotions. Children and young people say that this makes them feel happier.

Children and young people's records are maintained to a good standard. They are child-focused and provide the reader with a good insight into the child's journey. However, the information contained in the records is not always analysed. In particular, this relates to initial referral information and care planning. Consequently, key information is not adequately assessed and understood.

Staff support children and young people to establish and maintain positive friendships with their friends and family. Young people also have access to a variety of activities that help build their social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Children and young people attend education, with one young person successfully finishing school who now has plans in place to attend college. Although some children and young people have access to a reduced timetable, this is due to their previous disengagement from school. In these instances, children and young people make good progress. However, they do not benefit from a structured daily educational routine at times when they are not in school.

### **How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good**

The home's response to several recent serious incidents at the home was not robust enough. Some decision-making increased risks for vulnerable children and young people, which resulted in children and young people not feeling safe.

Risk assessments and plans do not always contain all the relevant information to manage risks. Because of this, risk-taking behaviours escalate and the plans in place to reduce these risks are not effective.

When staff understand the risks to children, they manage these well. They work with partner agencies and their plans are clear. As a result, children reduce their risk-taking behaviour and their outcomes improve.

The majority of the children and young people move on from the home in a planned way. However, when emergency moves have been necessary, placements have ended suddenly. This has been in relation to safeguarding concerns. Managers have missed opportunities to manage these concerns in a planned and supportive way.

Children receive the support and help that they need to meet their health needs. Staff recognise the improvements that children are making. However, in some instances external support is not always considered, or accessed, in a timely way.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The management team is passionate about and committed to delivering a high standard of care and support. Its members lead by example and show good leadership and management knowledge and skills.

The quality of practice is of a good standard. However, in some instances management decisions have had a detrimental impact on the outcomes for children and young people. Managers demonstrate an ability in these instances to reflect on their practice and take remedial action.

Staff are complimentary about their managers. They feel supported and valued. They benefit from regular supervision, and day-to-day support is also good. Children and young people also speak highly of managers and staff.

In addition, professionals are complimentary about the home. One social worker said, 'The thing that has stood out for me has been the staff's commitment to [name of young person]. They have supported her through difficult times and never given up on her. The staff all strive to ensure that [name of young person's] needs are met and promoted, but also that she achieves to her potential. [Name of young person] is now ready to move on to semi-independence due to the work and commitment of the team that has supported her.'

Staff receive effective training that enhances their practice. The training helps staff to have a good insight into children and young people's needs. This provides staff with the confidence that they need to understand complex behaviours. As a result, they are able to help children and young people work through these.

Managers and staff strive to promote positive outcomes for children and young people. They recognise that each child is different, and they support children to achieve their goals. As a result, children and young people grow in confidence and make good progress.

## **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.

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:** SC010090

**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:** Tereasa Denby

**Registered manager:** Susan Harrington

## Inspector

Lisa Gregoire-Parker, social care inspector

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