

SC010090

Partners in Care Limited

Monitoring visit

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, irrespective of 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 that impact on their well-being;
- are at risk of exploitation;
- display offending or antisocial behaviour.

Inspection date: 12 December 2018

This monitoring visit

This children's home was registered on 21 Dec 2001.

The monitoring visit was undertaken to consider information received by Ofsted that suggested there may have been a breach of regulations. This related to two complaints that were received by Ofsted. Both complaints raised concerns about children and staff not being safeguarded. Ofsted had received notifications that also highlighted concerns about the standard of practice in the home.

Inspectors found that concerns raised by the complainants were substantiated. The home was in a state of disruption and it was not safe for children to live there. A large number of safeguarding concerns have not been recognised or appropriately addressed. Consequently, children and staff were left vulnerable.

Inspectors found that the assessments and plans did not accurately identify or address the needs of the children living at the home. Furthermore, children were not matched appropriately. Consequently, children had a negative impact on each

other's behaviours. This resulted in several incidents and the police were called to assist. There was an over-reliance on the police to manage behaviour in the home.

During the monitoring visit, inspectors were made aware that concerns had been raised with senior managers by the independent visitor. These concerns were not acted on in a timely way. Consequently, children continued to live in an unsafe environment.

There has been a high turnover of staff. In some instances, staff had left the home suddenly. The registered manager was on sick leave and interim management arrangements had been put in place. Several employees from other homes in the organisation have worked shifts at the home to ensure that there are appropriate staffing levels. Agency workers have also worked in the home. Consequently, children had no consistency and limited relationships with staff.

There are shortfalls in quality assurance and monitoring arrangements in the home. Management oversight is poor. As a result, poor practice has not been addressed, and correct support and guidance have not been put in place quickly enough.

The lack of effective monitoring and evaluation has led to an increase in children's risk-taking behaviour. In addition, children have not received the support they need to make safer decisions.

The home has not been managed in a way that is consistent with its ethos and with the stated aims and objectives. The requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection have not been addressed.

Senior managers had recognised that the home was not safe and had made the decision to close the home. This decision was made on the day prior to the monitoring visit. The organisation has given assurances to Ofsted that it will close the home for a minimum period of three months.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/07/2018	Full	Good
22/08/2017	Full	Good
08/03/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness
11/07/2016	Full	Good

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

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: Kathryn Seal

Registered manager: Susan Harrington

Inspectors

Lisa Gregoire-Parker: social care inspector
Julia Toller: social care regulatory manager

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
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E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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