

1247390

Registered provider: Partnerships In Care 1 Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is dual registered with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. The home provides care for up to eight children who have emotional health needs and who self-harm.

This specialist service is part of a large national private organisation. The organisation has its own clinical team.

Inspection date: 30 November 2021

Date of last inspection: 15 July 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 the interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

The home's manager has submitted their application to register with Ofsted. The manager has an appropriate understanding of the children, the home's strengths and areas for improvement. The manager understands the issues regarding the staff dynamics and has taken action to address these. There is also ongoing work with the team to prevent a reoccurrence of the team divide seen at the previous inspection. Staff spoken to said that team morale has improved.

Children are making progress. They are supported to learn how to talk about their feelings and emotions, and then develop strategies to manage these. This has led to a decrease in the number of incidents, which in some cases include self-harm, and a reduction in drugs misuse. Children are developing their independence skills, building their self-confidence and self-esteem.

Staff supported two children effectively to move on to the next stage of their lives successfully. Staff remain in contact with them to provide support as needed. Leaders and managers carefully consider the risks of a new child moving into the home. However, they do not consistently assess whether staff have the skills to meet the child's needs or assess the potential risks the current children may present.

The quality of children's plans has improved. Health plans are current and up to date and provide clear guidance for staff. Care plans now provide clear guidance for staff, especially on self-harm.

Incidents of children going missing are managed appropriately, and the right action is taken in response to safeguarding events. However, leaders and managers have not ensured that all incidents requiring notification are sent to the regulator as required. Restraint is rarely used. When it is used, reflective and meaningful conversations now take place with the child involved. The quality of restraint records has also improved.

Feedback from staff is positive. They recognise the improvements in the team dynamics. They feel that the training and support they receive equip them for their roles. Staff receive regular supervision, and the quality of these sessions has improved. However, some supervision records contain little information and do not always reflect the discussions held.

Overall, monitoring of the provision has improved. However, more timely action is required to escalate the concerns leaders and managers have identified regarding the lack of return home interviews and delays in obtaining pathway plans and local authority paperwork. In addition, leaders and managers had not identified inappropriate copy and pasting in an important record or that the human resources team is entitling references to 'whom it may concern' rather than to the referee directly.

There has been a reduction in the amount of health and safety signage around the home since the previous inspection. However, a further review of the remaining signage is required as signs detract from the homely environment the staff strive to create.

Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 15/07/2021 | Full | Requires improvement to be good |
| 28/10/2019 | Full | Requires improvement to be good |
| 23/07/2019 | Full | Inadequate |
| 20/02/2019 | 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>Engaging with the wider system to ensure children's needs are met the registered person must, and must ensure that staff—</p> <p>if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5 (c))</p> <p>In particular, leaders and managers must escalate their concerns in a timely manner when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ placing authorities fail to provide the home with a looked-after child placement plan ■ placing authorities fail to carry out return home interviews in a timely manner. | 31 January 2022 |
| <p>The care planning standard is that children—</p> <p>receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home;</p> <p>have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure —</p> <p>that arrangements are in place to—</p> <p>plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(iii))</p> | 31 January 2022 |

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| <p>In particular, each child must have a clear moving on plan to aid them in moving on to the next stage in their lives. Also, required documentation and plans must be obtained from the placing authority.</p> | |
| <p>A responsible individual must—</p> <p>have the capacity, experience and skills to supervise the management of the home, or the homes, in respect of which the responsible individual is nominated. (Regulation 26 (7)(b))</p> | <p>31 January 2022</p> |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that all employees—</p> <p>receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b))</p> <p>In particular, leaders and managers must ensure records of supervision sessions are of a consistently good quality.</p> | <p>31 January 2022</p> |
| <p>Notification of a serious event</p> <p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;</p> <p>an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>a child protection enquiry involving a child—</p> <p>is instigated; or</p> <p>concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(e))</p> | <p>31 January 2022</p> |

Recommendations

- The registered person must continue to review the number of health and safety signs in the home, which convey an institutional impression. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs. The impact or compatibility risk assessment must also include potential risks that the existing children may present to the new child and an assessment of the staff team's skills to meet the needs of the new child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)
- The registered person is responsible for maintaining good employment practice. They must ensure that reference requests are sent to the referee named by the applicant. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

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: 1247390

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Partnerships In Care 1 Limited

Registered provider address: Fifth Floor, 80 Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UD

Responsible individual: James King

Registered manager: post vacant

Inspector

Wendy Anderson, Social Care Inspector

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