

1236771

Registered provider: Hexagon Care Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private organisation. It offers care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home. They spoke to the inspector about their experiences of living there.

A manager is in post and has submitted her application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 February 2024

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: 28 February and 1 March 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/02/2023	Full	Good
08/02/2022	Full	Good
24/09/2019	Full	Good
27/11/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children like living in the home. They feel happy, safe, and settled. Staff are child-centred and provide loving and nurturing care to the children. Children are making progress in all areas of their lives.

Relationships between staff and children are positive. Children enjoy spending time with staff inside and outside of the home. Staff encourage children to take part in different activities. One child regularly goes go-karting, and another enjoys going for walks in the park with staff. Staff take children on days trips and holidays in this country and abroad. This supports children's social development and helps to improve their self-confidence.

Staff support children with their education. All children have made significant progress in this area. One child who rarely attended school before living in the home now attends every day. Staff advocated for another child to receive alternative education to meet their needs. One teacher spoke very positively about the support from staff. Staff are ambitious for all children to do well.

Staff understand children's healthcare needs and support children to attend health appointments. Staff provide children with healthy meals, which children help to plan and cook. Staff and children enjoy meals out together to experience different types of food. Staff promote children's emotional well-being and advocate for them to ensure that the right services are in place.

Children are helped to spend time with people who are important to them. They are supported to have overnight stays with their family and friends, and friends are welcome to visit the home. Staff regularly speak with family members. One family member said, 'Staff really care about the children there and communication is good.'

Children live in a large home that is comfortable and welcoming. Communal areas are spacious and homely. Children's bedrooms are big, well furnished, and personalised. Two children keep a small pet animal each. This provides the children with a sense of belonging in the home.

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

Children are safe and protected. Their risks and vulnerabilities are known and understood. Children's risk plans are individualised, detailed, and clear. Direct work is carried out with children; however, this does not always address their identified needs.

Positive behaviour is consistently promoted in the home. Staff use creative and fun ways to reward children, which children respond well to. Children receive help and support to understand and manage their feelings and behaviour safely. Appropriate

and consistent boundaries are in place, providing a stable and calm environment for children. Consequently, children do not go missing from the home and staff do not need to hold children to keep them safe.

Staff are trained in a therapeutic model that helps them to understand and manage children's experiences and behaviours in their day-to-day practice for the benefit of all the children.

Children are encouraged and supported to take age-appropriate risks to help them to develop their independence skills and confidence.

Effective planning takes place before children come to live at the home. Staff go over and above and use child-friendly techniques to ensure that children feel safe and comfortable before they move in.

Safer recruitment practices are in place to ensure that only adults who are safe to work with children are employed in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The acting manager is knowledgeable, caring and dedicated. She is passionate about the welfare and progress of the children and is committed to developing the home. She is supported by an experienced and hard-working deputy.

The manager is fully involved in the children's lives and provides reliable and effective support. One professional said that she is 'very child centred' and an 'excellent and tireless advocate' for the children.

Staff enjoy working at the home and are proud to work there. One staff member said that the home 'feels like a family', and another said that it is a 'home from home'. The manager and staff have high expectation for themselves and the children.

Staff feel valued and supported by the manager and her deputy. Staff benefit from regular supervision sessions and team meetings, where they can reflect on their practice and learn from one another. A robust training programme is available for staff, providing them with the skills and knowledge to meet the needs of the children living in the home.

The manager works proactively and effectively with other agencies and professionals. One professional from education said that communication from the home is 'absolutely excellent'.

The manager regularly monitors the quality of care provided to the children. She knows the strengths and vulnerabilities of the home and takes action to make improvements. For example, staff recently attended training to develop report writing skills. This helps staff to effectively evaluate their practice and to use child-friendly language for the benefit of children.

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 positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on—</p> <p>mutual respect and trust;</p> <p>an understanding about acceptable behaviour;</p> <p>and positive responses to other children and adults.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 11 (1) (2)(a)(i))</p> <p>Specifically, the registered person must ensure that all children receive proactive direct work that is targeted to their specific needs, to help them to understand how to keep themselves safe.</p>	30 April 2024

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: 1236771

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hexagon Care Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Hexagon Care, 1 Tustin Court, Port Way, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston PR2 2YQ

Responsible individual: Robert Allen

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Zillah Brooks, Social Care Inspector

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