

1221700

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 run by a private organisation and is registered to care for up to five children who may experience social, emotional and learning difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 1 February 2016.

At the time of the inspection, there were five children living at the home. Three of the children spoke to the inspector about their experiences living in the home.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 September 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: 21 September 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/09/2023	Full	Good
16/02/2023	Full	Good
23/02/2022	Full	Good
09/10/2019	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children's moves into and out of the home are planned and well supported by leaders, managers and staff.

The home is well presented, with photos of the children on display in communal areas. Children's bedrooms are decorated to a good standard and personalised with posters and portraits that reflect their current interests.

Children receive well-informed care from staff who are committed to supporting them and making a positive difference in their lives. Staff speak warmly about children and share their pride in their progress.

Children have positive relationships with staff. These are developed through a keen interest from the staff team to learn about the children and what interests them. One staff member commented, 'I don't even like football, but if the child likes football, I'll be a footballer for the day.' In addition, the stability within the staff team means that children have the time to develop trusting and dependable relationships with the staff who care for them.

Children learn the value of learning. Staff talk to children about the benefits of education and support children to attend their academic provision. Any reluctance to go to school is managed thoughtfully by staff, through positive praise and incentive-based rewards.

Children make steady and measured progress from their starting points. For example, staff and professionals identified one child has grown in confidence since living at the home.

Children are helped to spend quality time with their family. Staff work with family members and professionals to ensure that family time is a pleasant experience for all involved. Children's associated risks are considered and, where necessary, leaders, managers and staff put measures in place to protect children from any potential harm.

Diversity in the home is promoted and individuality is celebrated. Staff listen to children's requests about how they want to live their lives. Where safe to do so, staff support children to achieve their life choices. This contributes to children developing positive self-esteem.

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

Children feel safe living at the home. This view is supported by family members and professionals, who are confident that staff protect children. In addition, routine health and safety procedures reduce the risk of children being harmed in the home.

Safeguarding incidents are rare. Staff attribute this to the positive relationships that they have formed with the children, which help them understand children's behaviours and measures that are effective to help them remain calm.

Leaders, managers and staff are aware of children's associated risks. Staff practice is informed by detailed risk management plans that provide staff with a step-by-step guide of the action they should take to safeguard children.

There have been two incidents of children going missing from home during the inspection period. Incident records show that staff prioritise children's safety by searching for children and requesting support from safeguarding professionals to locate the child.

The safety and well-being of children is taken seriously by leaders and managers. Potential candidates go through a rigorous vetting process to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. Furthermore, allegations about unsafe staff practice are thoroughly and fairly investigated to ensure that the standard of care afforded to children continues to keep them safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager has been in post since 2016 and is suitably qualified and experienced. He is supported by a deputy manager, who has vast experience of working in children's homes. Both have been in their appointed roles for several years and have formed a positive and effective working relationship. This contributes to staff confidence in their leadership of the team.

There are effective systems in place to support staff. Staff say they receive informal and formal supervision that considers their well-being and highlights good practice and areas of development. In addition, new staff members have access to a detailed induction programme that equips them with skills relevant to their role. A recently appointed staff member said, 'My induction has been out of this world. I have constant supervisions and they check to make sure I am meeting the criteria. I have learned so much from my senior.' Furthermore, staff are provided with needs-led training in response to children's circumstances.

There is a consistent staff team that is committed, child centred and understands children's needs. Team meetings are well attended, and discussions evidence a collective focus on improving outcomes for children. Staff refer to the team and children they care for as a family. This joint and positive way of working provides children with a sense of stability and security.

Leaders and managers have good oversight of the home. Incidents are rare, but when they do occur these are reviewed by the manager. Children's placing authority plans reflect children's current needs and are followed by staff.

Partnership working is effective. A social worker for one child praised the staff for their approach to multi-agency working, and said staff attend and contribute to meetings focused on children's care. Other professionals confirmed that leaders, managers and staff routinely update them about children's progress.

There were no requirements or recommendations made at this inspection.

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: 1221700

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hexagon Care Services Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 1 Tustin Court, Riversway, Preston, Lancashire PR2 2YQ

Responsible individual: George Sumner

Registered manager: Peter Croasdale

Inspector

Chibuzo Otache, Social Care Inspector

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