

1221700

Registered provider: Hexagon Care Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private provider.

It is registered to provide care for up to five children with social and emotional needs.

Five children are currently being cared for in this home.

The manager is suitably experienced and qualified and has been registered with Ofsted since February 2016.

Inspection dates: 21 and 22 September 2023

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: 16 February 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/02/2023	Full	Good
23/02/2022	Full	Good
09/10/2019	Full	Outstanding
20/09/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have positive relationships with the staff who care for them. Staff are actively involved in the children's interests. The manager and staff encourage positive relationships between the children and promote joint activities where there are shared interests. Children get along well with each other and enjoy spending time as a group. They regularly enjoy playing football together in the back garden.

Children see their families and friends in line with their individual plans. Staff communicate well with parents and other important people and welcome them into the home.

The home environment is spacious and well maintained. Staff have supported children to personalise their bedrooms according to their preferences and have changed furnishings to support their health needs.

Although not all children are attending school, the manager is advocating strongly on their behalf to identify a placement. Where children are not attending school, the staff provide educational activities within school hours. Where children are attending school, they are making good progress socially and academically. Staff transport the children to and from school. They also support school staff at the end of the day to ensure that children have a positive transition from education to home. Staff encourage good routines for all children in the home, whether they are attending school or not.

Staff support children to learn skills for independence. The home has a separate area where children can practise practical skills, such as laundry and cooking. Staff have supported one child to apply for and maintain a part-time job in line with their wishes and plans.

The manager assesses the ability of the staff to meet the needs of the children before they move in to the home. This has ensured that children who are new to the home are well supported by the staff team, and they have settled quickly.

Children are happy and settled in the home. They are aware of their rights and how to complain. The children are confident that the manager would respond effectively if they raised any concerns.

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

Staff understand the risks to children. When children have needed more help to stay safe, staff have gained support from external agencies and extra staff have been provided.

Staff respond quickly and appropriately when children are missing from the home. Children's missing-from-care plans are clear and the staff have good knowledge of them. Staff discuss any missing episodes with children so that they can reflect on their choices and learn about the risks. This has resulted in a reduction of missing episodes.

Staff encourage positive behaviour through consistent boundaries and strong relationships with the children. This means that formal sanctions are rarely used. When staff implement formal sanctions, they are fair and proportionate to children's behaviour.

Children are only held by staff when this is necessary to protect them from harm. School staff have asked for support from the staff when they have struggled to manage a child's emotions and behaviour. The support provided has led to a reduction in physical interventions for that child.

Staff do not search children's bedrooms often. When this does occur, it is in response to safeguarding concerns. However, staff do not consult with children before room searches, where possible. Staff also do not discuss the reasons for the room search with the children afterwards. This means that the children do not have their dignity and privacy protected. A requirement has been made in relation to this.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is committed to their role and has excellent relationships with the children. Children enjoy spending time with the manager and will seek them out to speak with them about their day.

The manager and other leaders have been part of the staff team for an extended period. They provide a supportive environment to the staff and, as a result, the staff team is stable and consistent. This enables the children to have consistency of care and build relationships of trust.

Leaders and managers provide regular supervision to the staff team. Supervisions are reflective of the manager's high expectations of the staff team. Staff reflect on their own practice in supervision and managers support them with their identified development needs.

Staff attend training regularly. Leaders and managers provide training that enables the staff to meet the needs of the specific children who they care for. When practice issues are raised, the manager addresses these quickly and effectively.

The manager has effective monitoring systems and completes regular reviews of the quality of care. The manager uses their own monitoring and reports from the independent person to contribute to the development plan for the home.

The manager does not have a copy of the local authority plan for a child. This child has a complex and evolving care plan. This means that the staff are unable to

ensure that they are meeting the expectations of the care plan. A requirement has been in relation to this.

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
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)) In particular, ensure that there is a copy of any plan for the care of the child prepared by the child's placing authority.	30 November 2023
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— treat each child with dignity and respect. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(iii)) In particular, ensure that room searches are carried out sensitively, and discussions with the child before and after the search are completed where possible.	30 November 2023

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 PR2 2YQ

Responsible individual: George Sumner

Registered manager: Peter Croasdale

Inspector

Sarah Huntbatch, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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