

1223501

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 large private provider. It is registered to provide care for up to four children who may have behavioural and/or emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

At the time of the inspection, four children were living at the home. Two children had previously moved out.

The manager registered with Ofsted in December 2024.

Inspection dates: 16 and 17 January 2025

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: 27 February 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/02/2024	Full	Outstanding
10/01/2023	Full	Outstanding
15/03/2022	Full	Outstanding
02/10/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The environment is warm, welcoming and has photos of children and staff spending time together and artwork created by children around the home. Children have remained living in the home for long periods. Children have strong relationships with staff who they said they trust. Staff place children at the centre of their practice. Children experience a sense of permanence and belonging and stability.

Children are supported by staff who know them well. Clear plans are in place so that staff understand their roles and responsibilities to support children when they struggle to manage their feelings. Children are involved in deciding what approaches work for them. This supports children to feel secure.

Children have fun. Children are encouraged to participate in a range of activities individual to them, such as scouts, trampolining and archery. These activities support children to develop their social skills. One child has been supported to attend at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. As a result, they now have the confidence to volunteer packing food for a homeless charity.

Children are attending at school. One child, following multiple exclusions, has been supported to remain in school with staff from the home supporting the child during lunchtimes. The manager has advocated for another child, whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream school, to attend an alternative provision. This means that children are participating in and are developing their confidence and self-esteem.

Children new to the home are welcomed sensitively with the best possible planning. They are provided with details of their new home before arriving. Additionally, transition plans, at the child's pace, are in place so children have the opportunity to meet with staff and children and attend at activities together before they move in. This means that children already living in the home are prepared for new children moving in.

Children leaving the home experience positive endings. Staff work with children, parents, professionals, such as social workers, education and health, to consider what support is needed. Plans are then put in place and reviewed regularly. This means that children are prepared and leave care when they are ready. Children value the relationships they have made with staff and return to visit often.

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

Children, when making an allegation, have been listened to. Staff have shared information with parents and professionals, such as social workers, so this can be considered timely. Plans have been put in place to ensure that arrangements for children are safely monitored. As a result, any potential risks are understood and managed well.

Staff understand their roles and responsibilities to support children. Children who go missing from home have clear plans in place so staff understand what actions they need to take. Staff complete area searches so they can be returned safely. Staff are curious and speak to children so they can understand the reason for this and can revise their approach. As a result, children rarely go missing from home.

When children need to be held, this is proportionate and necessary. The manager has reviewed events leading up to incidents to understand any patterns, triggers and staff responses. As a result of this additional training has been provided to staff to meet the individual needs of children. Plans have been changed and completed with children who feel secure as they are involved in deciding what support and approaches best work for them.

Children are supported to spend time with family. However, on one occasion, staff failed to recognise the risk potential for one child. This incident was reviewed by the manager alongside staff and the child's social worker. A clear plan was put in place to reduce the risk of harm. There have been no further incidents of concern around this.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is managed effectively. The manager is supported by the responsible individual and deputy manager, who are inspirational and ambitious and have high expectations for what children can achieve. Professionals and parents say that the support for children is excellent and children are making progress.

The manager has high expectations of the staff team and promotes a learning culture. This is reflected in her oversight and monitoring of children's experiences. Team meetings, supervision and appraisals are used to identify continued learning to develop staff practice.

A consistent staff team is in place. Some staff are qualified, and others are completing the relevant qualification. Staff receive training specific to the needs of children, such as global development delay, so they can continue to deliver a high-quality service.

Staff said they love working at the home and feel supported by the registered manager and responsible individual. They are provided with opportunities to reflect through regular supervision, so that they can learn from and develop their practice.

The manager has a detailed understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the staff team. For example, when allegations have been made, post investigation, lessons learned are completed and single subject supervision and training have been put in place for staff to develop their knowledge and understanding. This is strengthened by a clear workforce plan.

The manager and staff have excellent relationships with partner agencies. One professional said, 'It is very clear that the all the staff and managers at the home have [name of child's] best interests at the heart of their decision-making.'

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: 1223501

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hexagon Care Services Limited

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

Responsible individual: George Sumner

Registered manager: Leigh Luxton

Inspector

Nicola Forrester, Social Care Inspector

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