

2510847

Registered provider: Hopscotch Care Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person who may have emotional or behavioural needs. The home is owned and operated by a private organisation.

The home has a manager who registered with Ofsted in April 2019.

Inspection date: 4 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 17 September 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: not applicable

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 good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

This inspection identified shortfalls relating to safeguarding, leadership and management, safe recruitment practices and recording. The manager has had a period of extended leave, which Ofsted, as the regulator, was not notified of. However, the shortfalls have not had an impact on the child's progress.

The experience and progress of the child in placement remain positive. This is a solo placement, and the child has, since the last inspection, commenced at college and is engaging positively in his education. The manager and key staff members have successfully supported the child to sustain his college placement, despite some incidents on campus. The child commented at the inspection that 'it's all good – one of the better homes I have lived in. He said that he hopes to remain until he is ready to transition to independent living.

Since the last inspection, the manager has made changes to the staffing arrangements. A dedicated staff team now works in this home. This has improved consistency and stability for the child. However, the manager has failed to ensure safe recruitment practice across the whole team. Records fail to show a full and complete employment history of all staff.

Records of physical interventions and consequences have improved since the last inspection. However, the manager has failed to review each incident for the effectiveness and appropriateness of the action taken. These are missed opportunities to ensure that the staff team is supporting the child to learn from each incident and that actions taken are appropriate to each incident.

Staff described good levels of training and support. The manager reported that there is a comprehensive induction and training programme in place. However, at this inspection, the manager was unable to evidence which staff had undertaken the training programme. This information should be regularly updated so that training levels can be monitored effectively.

Internal monitoring systems have been developed by the manager. However, they have failed to identify shortfalls found at this inspection. The manager reported that he has completed monitoring in line with regulation 45. However, this report was unavailable to review at inspection. HMCI has also not received this report. Effective monitoring and quality assurance will help to drive improvement in the home including that of the quality of care being provided.

The manager has introduced individual risk assessments, which are underpinned by a main full risk assessment. However, the strategies identified to reduce risk are not

consistent in the two documents. This does not provide clear and agreed actions for staff to follow in the event of incidents occurring.

The manager and staff continue to have high aspirations for the child. They are committed to the work that they do. Staff have established good relationships with the child and know him well. These relationships have supported the stability of the placement for the child.

The manager understands that there are lessons to be learned and is aware of what they can do to improve practice.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/09/2019	Full	Good

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 protection of children standard The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12(1) (2)(a)(i))	01/04/2020
The leadership and management standard The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the skills to meet the needs of each child; ensure monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(2)(c)(h))	01/04/2020
Fitness of workers The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The registered person may only—	01/04/2020

employ an individual to work at the children's home if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2. (Regulation 32(1) (2)(a) (3)(d))	
Behaviour management policies and records The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35(3)(a)(vii))	01/04/2020
Review of quality of care The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report"). The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed. (Regulation 45 (1) (3) (4)(a))	01/04/2020
Notice of absence If the person who is in day-to-day charge of the children's home proposes to be absent from the home for a continuous period of 28 days or more, the registered person must give notice in writing to HMCI of the proposed absence. Except in the case of an emergency or unforeseen absence, a notice under paragraph (1) must—	01/04/2020

be given no later than one month before the proposed absence commences, or within such shorter period as may be agreed with HMCI. (Regulation 48 (1) (2)(a))	
--	--

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: 2510847

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Hopscotch Care Limited

Registered provider address: 19 Lancaster Road, Carnforth LA5 9LD

Responsible individual: Richard Witt

Registered manager: Don-Collins Ekwem

Inspector

Louise Redfern, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: <http://www.gov.uk/ofsted>

© Crown copyright 2020