

2510847

Registered provider: Hopscotch Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a private organisation and is registered to provide care for one child. The home provides care to children with social and emotional difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since December 2021.

Inspection dates: 12 to 13 April 2022

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: 2 February 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: Inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection:

Following a full inspection on 2 and 3 February 2022, compliance notices were served against regulation 12, the protection of children standard, regulation 13, the leadership and management standard, and regulation 23, the medicines standard. The compliance notices were monitored during this inspection and all were met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/02/2022	Full	Inadequate
04/03/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
17/09/2019	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

There is one child living in the home. This is the same child who lived in the home at the last inspection. No other children have moved in or out of the home since the last inspection. This has provided stability for the child.

The child is engaging with education. They are attending college and a work placement as part of their course. They also have a part-time job in the local area. Good support has helped the child to make consistent progress.

Staff understand the child's needs well. The child's individual care plan details how to meet the child's physical and emotional health needs. Staff help the child to access appropriate therapeutic and mental health support. The staff work with health professionals to provide effective day-to-day care for the child.

Activities are promoted by staff and the child enjoys outdoor activities, such as day trips to theme parks and visits to climbing wall centres. This provides positive experiences for the child and supports them to develop their social, emotional and physical well-being.

Staff help the child to learn the life skills that they will need to live independently. The child practises cooking, budgeting and other general life skills. This will help the child feel more confident when they move to independent living.

Staff understand the importance of relationships and support the child to see family members. This helps the child to maintain positive relationships with people who are important to them.

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

The manager and staff develop detailed risk assessments and risk management plans for the child. They are monitored and updated so remain relevant and effective. When incidents have occurred, staff have responded in line with the child's risk management plan to ensure their safety in the home and the community.

Since the last inspection, there has been one incident of physical restraint. This was proportionate, necessary and low level. The staff and child are encouraged to debrief with the manager after such an incident. This helps them to understand how to prevent future incidents occurring.

Medication is stored and administered in line with regulation. The manager has oversight of medication practice and completes monthly audits. This ensures that the child receives the correct medication in a safe way.

Safe recruitment procedures are in place to prevent unsuitable adults from working with children. However, the manager was unaware of a risk assessment which was in place for a new member of staff. A recommendation has been made in relation to this.

A requirement will be made to ensure the manager follows safeguarding procedures when there are concerns around staff. This is an outstanding issue from the compliance notice under regulation 12.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

There is a registered manager in post. She registered with Ofsted in December 2021 and is currently working towards her level 5 in leadership and management.

The manager and staff have been working on an improvement plan since the last inadequate inspection. The manager knows the home's strengths and weaknesses and there are plans in place to address these.

Incidents are reviewed by the manager and the operations manager to ensure that any shortfalls are identified. There are weekly meetings of the management team to track progress and identify any learning opportunities.

Staff and the manager have undertaken a range of training in safeguarding matters. Workshops for staff and managers have been introduced to ensure that the knowledge of staff is kept up to date. However, there were some shortfalls identified in staff training specific to the child and a requirement has been made to address this. This is an outstanding issue from the compliance notice under regulation 13.

New staff receive induction and supervision in line with the provider's policy. All staff receive regular supervision. This allows them to talk about their practice and identify any opportunities for improvement.

The staff team is consistent and the home has its own identified staff team. This includes a female member of staff always being in the home, which is in line with the child's needs.

Team meetings are frequent and are well attended. Staff get the opportunity to discuss issues in the home in addition to discussing the child and their needs. Discussions are reflective and give staff the opportunity to learn.

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 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— are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(vii))	14 July 2022
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c))	14 July 2022

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that recruitment of staff safeguards children and minimises potential risks to them. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.1)

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: 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: Keri Alston

Inspectors

Rachael Crook, Social Care Inspector

Julia Toller, Social Care Inspection Manager

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