



Croft House Area Risk Assessment

This report is completed in line with changes to the Children's Home Regulations 2001 (as amended) and the Care Standards act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010. Regulation 31. The change to Regulation 31 imposes an additional duty....."to ensure that all homes are suitably located, and this must be risk assessed annually (within the calendar year), involving local agencies, as appropriate.

This document is to assess the risks associated with the local area surrounding the location of Head start Care Children's Home, a home for looked after children in the Heart of Sussex.

The home is very near to local amenities. It has excellent transport links with bus routes, British rail, a local GP, dentist and optician are all within a five-minute drive.

Croft House provides a service for up to 4 young people aged 7-17yrs on admission of either gender. Most of our young people are on the Autistic Spectrum and have Complex Needs, some may have also suffered severe loss and trauma resulting in some challenging behaviours and are subsequently placed following family or foster placement breakdowns.

Name & Address of Home:	Croft House, 6 Preston Road, Sidley Bexhill on Sea, TN39 5BY	Date of completion:	05/01/19
Name of Manager:	Caroline Melia & Manoli Vachoumis	Completed by:	Manoli Vachoumis
Name of town located and surrounding towns/area:	Sidley / Bexhill on Sea		

Description of area the home is based:

Include details such as:

- Is the home rural, urban, remote, secluded etc
- Is the home located on a main road, residential street, country setting etc
- Neighbours overview
- Brief description of the community

Headstart Care is located in Preston Road, a quiet and residential area of Sidley approximately two miles to the main town centre and the seafront. Bexhill town is well served with main road and rail links. There is also a local bus service. Both Sidley and neighbouring Bexhill are extremely well resourced with leisure facilities, including swimming, skating, multiplex cinemas, bowling etc. Given its reasonably rural location, there are many opportunities for walking, visiting farms and horse riding. Headstart Care is a large terraced house. Internally there are large living spaces with plenty of natural light, which include a separate lounge, dining room and kitchen with separate utility room/shower room. There are three single bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a separate toilet for staff downstairs.

Description of local facilities

Include details such as:

- Leisure centres
- Shopping centres
- Police stations
- Schools
- Local shops Youth clubs
- Doctors surgery's
- Hospitals
- Fire station, etc

- Bexhill youth club, offering sessions for young people aged 11-17, peer to peer interaction and activities.
- Bexhill Swimming pool
- Ravenside retail park
- Bexhill Town Centre
- De La Warr Pavilion, venue offering exhibitions of arts and culture, also shows and plays.
- Priory Meadow shopping centre,
- Bexhill Police station
- Local convenience store
- Old Town surgery
- Conquest Hospital, the closest 24 hour A&E department
- Bexhill fire station
- Egerton Park, offering; a play park, boating lake, café, sports fields, walking trail.
- Sovereign Centre Fun Pool, Swimming pool offering a more playing environment.
- Summerfield's leisure centre (Freedom Leisure), resident's monthly gym memberships are based here.
- Alexandra park, offering; a miniature railway, café, play park, playing fields.
- Seafront with beach.
- Bexhill Museum
- Battle Abbey
- Hastings Castle

Record existing risks and current safety measures already in place.

Record how far each risk is from the home (approximately) e.g.:

- River
- Main roads
- Train stations
- Multi storey car parks
- Parks
- Public toilets
- Wooded areas
- Level crossings (trains)
- Bridges, etc

- 1. The nearest river is Coombe Haven River, 600 meters from the house.**
 - The risk of drowning
 - Injury due to discarded fishing tackle
 - Risk of injury from animal bite/ attack.
- 2. The home is on a quiet residential road, the main road is a short distance from the home.**
 - Risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident
 - Risk of absconding by car with known or unknown persons
- 3. The local train station is Bexhill Station, 1.5 miles from the house.**
 - Risk of absconding
 - Risk of injury or death on tracks
 - Possible suicide location
- 4. The nearest multi story car park to the home is in Hastings, Approx 5 miles from the house.**
 - Risk of injury from large falls
 - Risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident
- 5. There are many parks in the local area and the closest being 150 meters from the house.**
 - Risk of absconding
 - Risk of interaction with strangers
 - Risk of animal attack/bite
- 6. The closest public convenience is located in Sidley High Street**
 - Risk of interaction with strangers
- 7. There are many wooded areas**
 - Risk of injury due to accidents such as tripping on uneven ground or climbing trees etc,
 - Risk of interaction with strangers
 - Risk of animal attack/ bite
- 8. There are no level crossings in the local area.**
- 9. The closest bridge to the home is the new bypass which is currently under construction**
 - Possible suicide location
 - Risk of injury or death from fall,

Assess each point from the box above	Record action taken to reduce risk
Risk of injury from animal bite/ attack.	All young persons are made aware that they should not approach wild or pet animals at any time and staff to be with young person's when out on activities. Should any young person be bitten or attacked by a wild or domestic animal staff will immediately inform the house manager or on call

	and seek medical advice as required.
Risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident	Young persons are made aware of the risks surrounding the main roads through key work sessions. The property has safety fencing on the road boundary. Staffing levels are high mainly 1:1
Risk of absconding by car with known or unknown persons	All young persons are informed of the dangers of absconding through key work sessions. Should a young person abscond the company policy will be followed by staff and all appropriate persons and organisations will be informed immediately.
Risk of absconding	All young persons are informed of the dangers of absconding through key work sessions. Should a young person abscond the company policy will be followed by staff and all appropriate persons and organisations will be informed immediately.
Risk of interaction with strangers	All young people are made aware of the dangers of interacting with strangers and have been provided with mobile phone so in the event of being approached by strangers they can call staff from the home or the police for assistance and support
Risk of injury due to accidents such as tripping on uneven ground or climbing trees etc,	All young persons are supported fully during activities by staff. All young persons have a monthly clothing budget provided to them and staff will ensure that young persons are wearing the appropriate clothing for any activity. Both staff and young persons have mobile phones on them so as to be able to call for assistance if required.

	OUTCOMES	ACTION PLANS
Children can access services specified within their care plans.	On referral into the home services required by the young people are identified and procedures are put in place for the young people to have access to these services as locally and frequent as required. These services will include GP, Dentist, Opticians and specialist services relevant to the needs required by the young people. There is a vehicle at Name of home, which is available for use by the young people to access appointments, activities, education, and contact. Staff driving the car are qualified drivers and prior to taking the young people out, undergo an in-house driving assessment. There is a good bus service with numerous routes and the train station within 5-minute walk, to promote independence and additional life skills, should the children have the capacity	How staff support services required. Staff support any individual with access to these providers but supporting them to arrange and attend appointments by acting as a carer or advocate where necessary. Support with communication is available for the young people who are unable to communicate their needs effectively without support. Staff will transport young people to their appointments however the use of public transport is encouraged to develop independence and adult life skills where appropriate.
Consultation taken place with the local authority.	East Sussex Local Authority is kept aware of the homes operating procedures with regard to any changes within the company's business plan that may have an	

	<p>impact on the suitability of the location of the home.</p> <p>East Sussex Local Authority is aware of the needs of the young people within the home and reasons for their placements. They are notified of any new placements within the home through the regulatory procedures.</p>	
<p>Consultation taken place with the local police.</p>	<p>Staff working within the home know and implement the local authority and home's policy in relation to children going missing and their role in implementing that policy.</p> <p>Staff actively search for children/young people who are missing, including working with police where appropriate.</p> <p>If a young person is absent from the home and their whereabouts is not known (i.e. the child is missing), the home's procedures are compatible with and have regard to Run-away and Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) protocols and procedures maintained and managed by the police or by the local authority for the area where the home is located.</p> <p>Police may become aware of young people residing at Headstart Care from previous policing team or YOT workers that are/have been involved with the young person, a consultation/strategy meeting will take place between all professional parties involved.</p>	<p>Relationship with MFC co-ordinator is maintained.</p>
<p>Whether the location of the home represents a risk that Children may be targeted for sexual exploitation.</p>	<p>The registered person and staff work effectively in partnership with other agencies concerned with safeguarding e.g. the responsible authority, schools, hospitals, general practitioners, etc.</p> <p>Children's safety and welfare is promoted in the home. Children are protected from abuse and other forms of significant harm (including sexual or labor exploitation).</p> <p>Staff make positive relationships with children/young people in the home, generate a culture of openness and trust and are aware of and alert to any signs or symptoms that might indicate that a child/young person is at risk of harm.</p>	<p>Ongoing training around safeguarding, exploitation. Reporting and acting upon any concerns.</p> <p>The Registered Manager and staff to continue to work effectively in partnership with other agencies concerned with safeguarding e.g. the responsible authority, schools, hospitals, general practitioners, etc.</p>
<p>Whether the location of the home influences the potential that Vulnerable</p>	<p>The location of the home and recent statistics show that within the last year there have been 44 crimes within a mile circumference of Name of</p>	<p>Risk assessments are updated regularly and the children are not left independently without the supervision of staff unless stated in young person care plan, separate</p>

Children could be a victim of violent crime.	home that were violent/sexual in nature.	risk assessment to be produced specific to young person.
Whether there is a likelihood of Children becoming drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the local area.	The risk to the children is limited by the high supervision they receive from the staff alongside the children's level of communication this risk is reduced. The area is rural and there are few possibilities of meeting street gangs near the home.	Staff continue to supervise the young people on a one to one basis, this reduces the chances of the young people being involved in gang crime or being susceptible to gangs using the children for gang related crimes.
The appropriateness of the local neighbourhood as a location to care for Vulnerable Children with experiences of trauma, abuse and neglect.	The local area has been assessed by regulatory bodies to ensure it meets suitable criteria for the location of vulnerable children who may have experienced trauma, abuse and neglect.	Care plans are reviewed, monitored and updated to ensure that all young people are protected from harm, abuse or neglect and staff receive regular training to ensure they have increased awareness of the risks and signs of abuse.
Mitigations	<p>The Croft is always sufficiently staffed in accordance with the Statement of Purpose and Children and Young People in placement.</p> <p>The Registered Manager processes all potential referrals via a need's assessment tool in collaboration with the relevant authority and responsible individual. This will ensure that the 'best mix' of young people is achieved within the home.</p> <p>An individual risk assessment for any child whereby the factors in this section are relevant would detail specific instructions and actions for the staff and management. These would be made in consultation with local agencies as applicable, the placing authority, and previous history and with reference to the child's care plan.</p> <p>The Registered Manager has good working relationships with the local services and knowledge of the workings within these agencies.</p> <p>The Registered Manager utilises all Health provisions and CAMHS in relevant areas for the young people and promotes partnership working.</p> <p>Comprehensive induction and training to staff in all relevant areas of their work. Specific additional training has been provided to staff and young people to improve understanding of links between child sexual exploitation, gang involvement, children going missing and related areas. A vulnerability risk assessment is completed for each child who comes to reside at the home which is shared with the police and which is updated in the event of any significant incident. In the event of any significant incident we are proactive in organising and participating multi-agency support meetings involving the police, placing authority and any other relevant party to review the circumstances, update individual risk assessments for the child and implement any other strategies or actions agreed to keep all safe.</p>	
Conclusions:	It is important that we also have good relationships with the neighbours around our Home, and that they understand how vulnerable the young people are. Often during the summer months if we are having a garden party we plan to invite some of the local families with their children who are known to our young people within the Home. The neighbours have been	

consulted about the opening of the Care Home and are fully supportive. The Chaplain has worked with vulnerable children in the past and is keen for the Home to offer somewhere for young people to stay. He has visited the site and knows the Registered Provider as do the neighbours the other side.

At The Croft it is important that we understand community cohesion and therefore, become part of our local community, one way in which we do this, is by actively having good links with our local GP Surgery in Hailsham We attend focus group meeting which have professionals from all health services, which are led by the GP Surgery and join the local parish council.

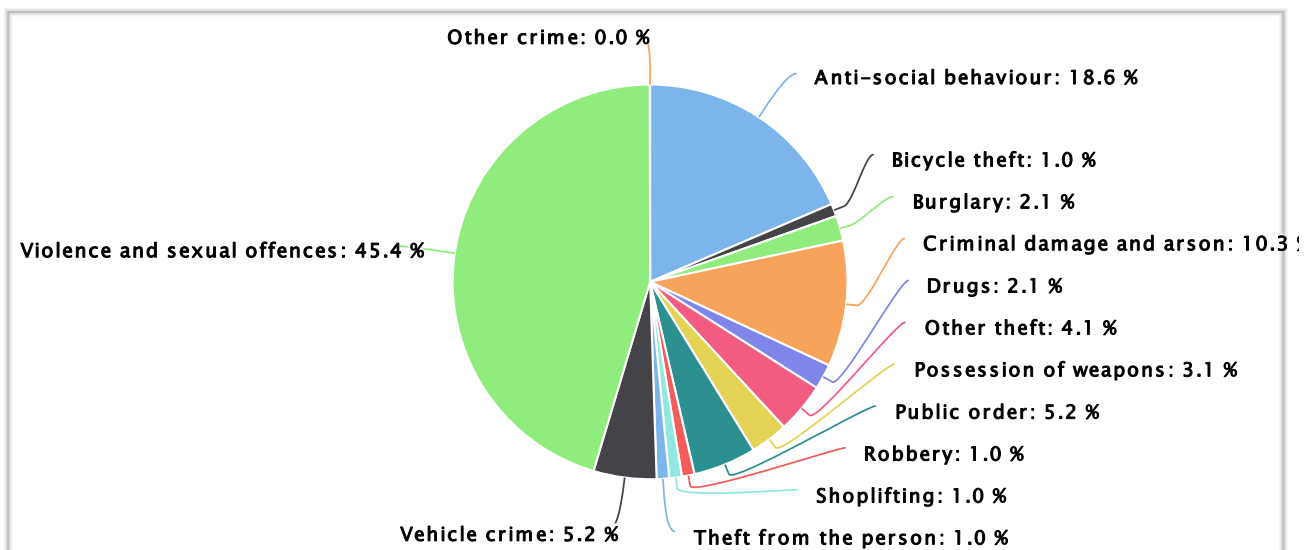
All young people placed with Headstart Residential services have available themed risk assessments correlated with their antecedents which are reviewed accordingly.

Publicly Available data

All crimes are displayed within a 1-mile radius of Bexhill On Sea, East Sussex, TN39 5BY, England. In some instances, crimes stretching over Village, Town or County boundaries may be included in your results.

A detailed description of all crime perpetrated in TN39 5BY can be found [below](#) with a total of 42 crimes reported in December 2018.

Percentage of Crime in Bexhill On Sea, East Sussex, TN39 5BY, England December 2018



Local Crime statistic website including contact for local Bexhill police team; www.police.uk/sussex/ER1NH9/

Date of next review	January 2020
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	Print Name	Sign Name	Date
Registered Manager			