



Oakfield's 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.

Oakfield House provides a service for up to 5 young people aged 7-17yrs on admission of either gender. The majority 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.

Address & Home Name	Oakfield House, Golden Cross, Chiddingly, Hailsham BN27 4AN
Name of Town Location & Surrounding Town's/Area	Chiddingly/Hailsham
Name of Manager	Caroline Melia
Completed By	Caroline Melia
Date of Completion	30.06.20

Description of area the home is based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Home is in a rural setting. • Neighbours overview: The Home is next door to the annexe of a special needs school for young people on the Autistic Spectrum. This is used to support the older students who are on a 1:1 ratio with staff. They use the site as a drop in/quiet study centre but are out in the community most of the time or at the main site. • The home itself does not operate CCTV, however there is CCTV on the gate shared access with the school along with an intercom system. • On the other side is a field belonging to the Chapel which adjoins it. • There are a combination of residential homes and businesses along the road, including a private school, café, petrol station and garden centre nearby • The home has a variety of small animals on site the young people can enjoy. Two small ponies, lambs, rabbits and Ducks.

Description of local facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden Centre/Café 10 minutes' walk • Hailsham youth club • Hailsham Swimming pool and Leisure Centre 4.6 • Hailsham Shopping Centre 4 miles • Hailsham Pavilion/cinema 4.3 miles • Hailsham Police station – 4.3 miles • Local convenience store 2 mins • Doctors surgery 4.5 miles • Eastbourne District General Hospital 9.4 miles • Lewes Fire station 9.1 miles • Hailsham Park 4.2 miles • Polegate train station 6.5 miles

Record existing risks and current safety measures already in place. Record how far each risk is from the home (approximately)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no rivers close by 2. The home is set back in its own grounds and the main road is a short distance from the home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident • Risk of absconding by car with known or unknown persons 3. There is a small annexe of a Special needs school next door which houses no more than 9 students. These students all have Autism and complex needs. At the present time the site is used as a drop-in for students who are out on work experience, but they are based mainly at the main site in Ninfield. All students are supported 1:1 or 2:1. 4. The local train station is Polegate Station is not walking distance

5. The nearest multi story car park to the home is 4 miles

- Risk of injury from large falls
- Risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident

6. There are many parks in the local area and the closest being 4 miles away

- Risk of absconding
- Risk of interaction with strangers
- Risk of animal attack/bite

7. The nearest by-pass is a short distance from the home

- Risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident

8. The closest public convenience is located 4 miles away

- Risk of interaction with strangers

9. 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

10. There are no level crossings in the local area.

11. There are no bridges near by.

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 homes manager or on call and seek medical advice as required. Young people will be supervised when caring for the home's animals.
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 being absent form the home	All young persons are informed of the

	dangers of being away from home 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 where are made aware of the dangers of interacting with strangers and have been provided with (risked assessed appropriate) a 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. Other young people are under close staff supervision at all times.
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 or 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.	<p>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.</p> <p>There are four vehicles at Name of home, which are available for use by the young people to access appointments, activities, education, and contact.</p> <p>Staff driving the car are qualified drivers and prior to taking the young people out, undergo an in-house driving assessment.</p>	<p>How staff support services required.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Support with communication is available for the young people who are unable to communicate their needs effectively without support.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p>Consultation taken place with the local authority.</p>	<p>What consultation was undertaken?</p> <p>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 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 MISPER 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>Relationship with MFC co-ordinator is how this is maintained.</p> <p>Local contact Luke Stanwick PC Luke Stanwick CS184 Missing Persons & Child Exploitation Team Hammonds Drive, Eastbourne, BN23 6PW</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</p>	<p>Ongoing training around safeguarding, exploitation. Reporting and acting upon any concerns.</p>

	<p>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 people is at risk of harm.</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 Children could be a victim of violent crime.</p>	<p>The location of the home and recent statistics shows that within the last year there have been few crimes within a half mile circumference of Name of home.</p>	<p>Risk assessments are updated regularly, and the children are not left independently without the supervision of staff.</p>
<p>Whether there is a likelihood of Children becoming drawn into gang crime, anti-social behaviour or any form of exploitation in the local area.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In 2019 a resident did become involved in the movement of drugs from the local petrol station close to the home (on A22)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>This was fully investigated and the young person was supported to move on .The police were confident this was an isolated matter at this address , however when the young people now walk there , they are either accompanied or staff are aware and oversee. Management are also in communication with the staff who are aware of our residents.</p>

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>Oakfield's 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. The neighbours have been consulted about the opening of the Care Home and are fully supportive. The Chaplain in particular has worked with vulnerable children in the past and is keen for the Home to	

	<p>offer somewhere for young people to stay. He has visited the site and knows the Registered Provider as do the neighbours the other side.</p> <p>At Oakfield's 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.</p> <p>All young people placed with Headstart Residential services have available themed risk assessments correlated with their antecedents which are reviewed accordingly.</p>
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Publicly Available data

Top reported crimes

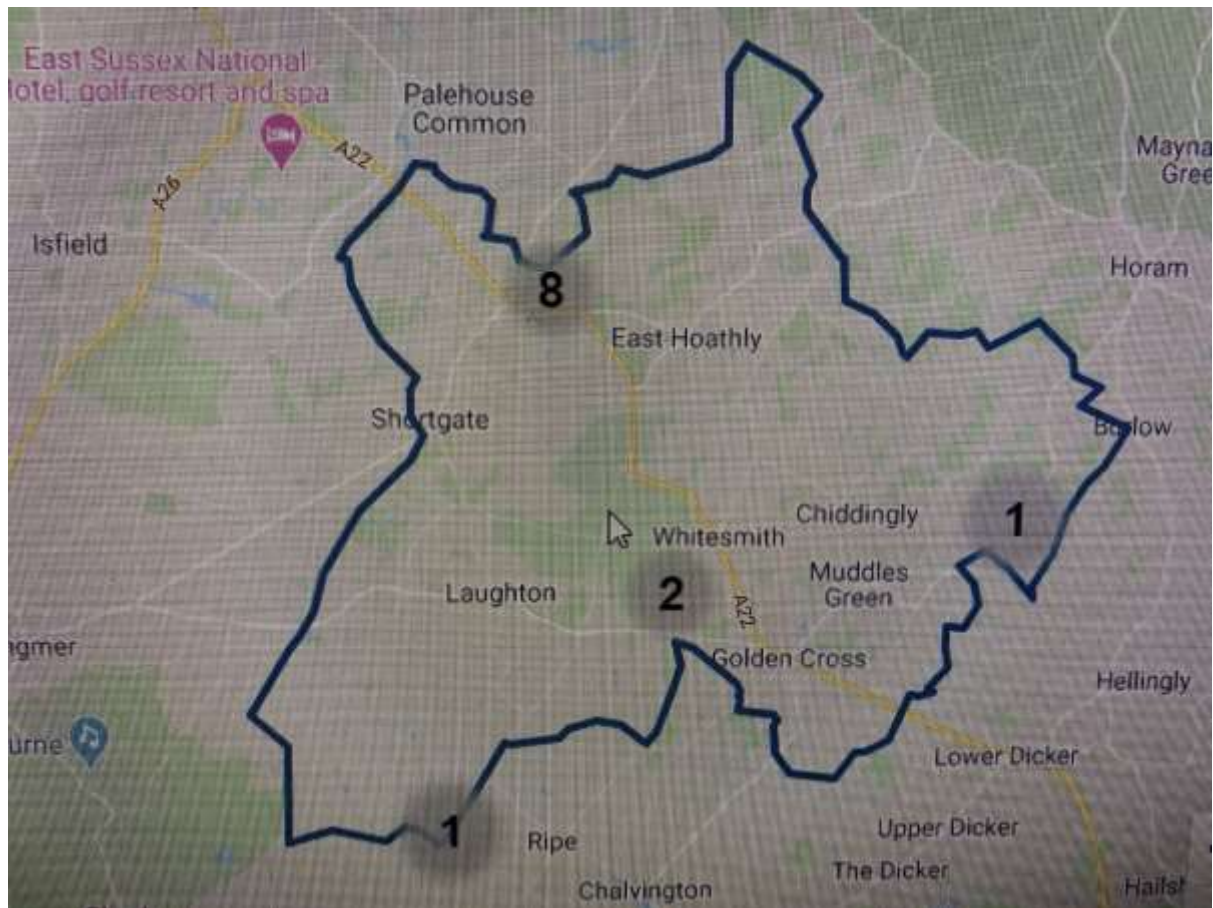
Most commonly reported crimes during May 2020

Violence and sexual offences 5

Anti-social behaviour 2

Drugs 2

Other theft 2



Communications form local police;

From: Jason.Whitlow@sussex.pnn.police.uk <Jason.Whitlow@sussex.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: CR37873 - LOCALITY RISK ASSESSMENT

New Local police contacts;

PCSO

Liv Clinton

Jack Matthews

Sue Choppin

Address

Crowborough Hill, Crowborough, TN6 2DA

TN6 2DA

Dear Caroline,

Request for Information relating to Regulation 46 Locality Risk Assessment for:

Oakfield's, Golden Cross, Hailsham, BN27 4AN

Thank you for the recent request regarding the above.

Please find below my response which is provided in keeping with a general police responsibility (conferred under the Children's Act 1989 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013) to work with other agencies and share information that is relevant for child protection issues and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

I am aware of the DfE guidance regarding your responsibility to carry out a location assessment and have framed my response in keeping with the expectations that guidance places upon you in terms of gathering information about the level of crime in the vicinity of your Children's Home, and the police response to it.

Information about you area within the public domain:

Have you not already done so you can access a map of recorded crime in the locality of your Children's Home by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.police.uk/sussex/>

Entering the postcode of the home's location will provide the following useful information:

- A crime map of the local area:
- Contacts for the local policing team
- The policing priorities for the area.

Information relevant to assessing local factors which may represent risks to children

The police will not disclose data that could potentially identify an individual(s) in response to your request. I have however considered that, at the time of writing, that there is not any criminal activity of significance that is of relevance to your assessment:

Yours sincerely,

Insp Johnathan Gross

Wealden District

Date of Next Review	Dec 2020
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Manager	Sign	Date
Caroline Melia		30.06.20

