

# 2602813

Registered provider: Keir Lock Children's Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The home registered on 14 December 2020 and is operated by a private provider. Care is provided for up to three children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The registered manager is appropriately qualified and has a wealth of experience.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

### Inspection dates: 3 and 4 November 2021

**Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account** **good**

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** not applicable

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** not applicable

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date          | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Not previously inspected |                 |                      |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Children have positive experiences and make happy memories as a result of living at the home. Their birthdays are hugely celebrated in the home. This has sentimental value that they will remember for the rest of their lives. One child said, 'I've never celebrated my birthday until I moved here.' Children live in a home where they are cared for and nurtured. This enables the children to flourish in an environment where they have positive role models.

Children have trusting relationships with staff. They speak openly to staff about their worries and feelings. This helps children to regulate their emotions and gives staff a better understanding of what the child is experiencing. Consequently, children can explore their emotions freely with the adults around them.

Staff ensure that children take part in a wide range of activities. Children enjoy weekends away at the seaside and going to spas. Staff encourage children to learn new skills, such as ice skating and swimming. Children continuously develop their self-esteem through the positive experiences they receive.

Children's health and mental well-being are supported. Routine appointments are up to date. Children eat a balanced diet and are generally fit and well. Staff are efficient with their responses to children's mental health. Additional sessions are sought with the child's therapist when needed. This results in children becoming responsive to therapy, which enables them to cope better with their emotions.

Children are making progress in education and have aspirations for their future. Children who struggle with their education receive additional support from a tutor. This reinforces the importance of education to the children. One child said, 'If it wasn't for these lot (staff), I would have dropped out of school.'

Staff help to prepare children for moving on from the home by encouraging them to carry out independent tasks, such as cleaning, cooking and understanding how to budget. Consequently, children are learning new skills to prepare them for when they leave the home.

Family time is promoted by staff. Family members are welcome to visit the home, and food and activities are provided. Staff are dedicated to supporting children during their family time. This enables children to have meaningful time with the people they love.

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

Risk assessments are individualised to the child's needs. They are regularly reviewed and updated by the deputy manager and staff. All staff are aware of any changes

that are made to the risk assessments. This enables staff to understand the level of risk presented by the child.

Staff act efficiently and in line with safety plans when dealing with self-injurious behaviour. This ensures that staff meet the child's immediate needs, and that the child receives appropriate care and attention. This has resulted in a reduction in the level of self-harm. One child said, 'I know they care about me here. I've never had a home like this before.'

Missing-from-care episodes receive a multi-agency response. As a result of concerns around a child's safety when missing from care, their placement has ended. This was because of concerning links the child had in the area. The social worker said, 'I cannot fault them, they did everything they could to save the placement. The entire team went above and beyond.'

Effective de-escalation techniques are used in line with children's support plans. Children respond well to verbal de-escalation. This results in children receiving a consistent approach from staff and, subsequently, they respond well to boundaries. As a result, physical intervention has not been used with the children currently living at the home.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

The registered manager and deputy manager have a wealth of experience. They share their knowledge with the dedicated staff team and lead by example, which results in a nurturing approach. The high standard of care that is delivered to the children encourages them to build their self-esteem. This enables them to become self-aware.

On some occasions, the registered manager has failed to notify Ofsted of serious incidents, such as children going missing from the home for long periods. Although he ensured that there was a multi-agency response to the episode, the failure to notify Ofsted of a safeguarding concern is a breach in regulation.

Staff are supported to reflect on their practice in a group and on an individual basis. This is enhanced through regular supervision and team meetings. This ensures that staff are continuously learning about new approaches to children's behaviour and increases their opportunity to share practice. All staff spoken to say that they feel supported by the manager.

One placing authority has not been forthcoming in providing up-to-date statutory plans for the child, who is fast approaching 18. This has been followed up by the deputy manager at the home. Unfortunately, they have been unsuccessful in receiving the plan in a timely manner. Although this is not impacting on the child's overall development, staff at the home do not have up-to-date plans to work with.

Through effective internal and external monitoring, the registered manager is aware of the home's strengths and weaknesses. The registered manager and deputy

manager have full oversight of the children's one-to-one work with staff, and any incidents that have occurred. This enables them to monitor progress and identify areas of support that the children need.

## 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        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <p>In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff—</p> <p>if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans (Regulation 5 (c))</p> <p>In particular, the child's placement plan and pathway plan should be in place to prepare the child for adult living.</p> | 5 December 2021 |
| <p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.<br/>(Regulation 40 (4)(e))</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5 December 2021 |

## 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:** 2602813

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Keir Lock Children's Homes Limited

**Registered provider address:** Thompsons Yard, New Street, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 8BH

**Responsible individual:** Andrew Taylor

**Registered manager:** Tony Gellen

## Inspector

Gemma McDonnell, Social Care Inspector

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