

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	29/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC009651
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Keys Childcare Ltd
Registered provider address	Hurstwood Court, New Hall Hey Road, Rossendale BB4 6HR

Responsible individual	Julie Hamilton
Registered manager	Sarah Haworth
Inspector	Elaine Clare

Inspection date	29/03/2017
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. All children have developed since the last inspection due in part to a settled peer group and a staff team that has a strong awareness of responding to children's needs. No new children have joined the home. Placement planning is strong and responsive to both the needs and wishes of the children. Children are involved with their reviews where appropriate and they are aware of the result of their reviews, knowing what plans are in place for their future care. This supports their stability at the home. Children have tried a range of differing activities, developing their self-esteem and confidence, including Brownies, football clubs, and learning how to trampoline. One child is working on developing their independence skills as they become a teenager. All children are developing their academic skills, attending educational placements on a daily basis. One child stated that 'I'm doing better now'. Contact arrangements support children's relationships with their families where appropriate. Plans are highly individualised and responsive to both the wishes of the children and their relations. Monitoring systems are strong. Monthly independent monitoring highlights areas of development and these are responded to swiftly highlighting the management's enthusiasm for improvement. These visits regularly include discussions with children, staff, professionals and family members to gain a good insight into the services offered. The management team's three monthly assessment of the home is detailed. It gives a clear picture of the way that the home works and what could be further improved. The safety of children is promoted through well-known systems and an appropriately trained staff team. Children are aware of how to raise concerns and when they have made complaints these have been responded to swiftly and appropriately. Staff consistently promote positive behaviours and this has resulted in a decrease in challenging behaviours. Incidents are clearly recorded within both the home's log and children's files, including discussions with children and staff in an attempt to	

decrease further such instances.

Staff work closely with parents and carers to ensure the views of children remain at the heart of care planning and contact arrangements. This is particularly important where family relationships have been challenging. Staff engage children skilfully to help them make sense of their situations, while simultaneously working with social workers and parents/carers. This results in a cohesive approach where clear communication ensures relationships are improved. The regular key-working trips out further help to develop effective relationships between children and staff well.

The registered manager is working hard to provide a home that has a warm nurturing and supportive feel. The manager has worked with the children and asked for their feedback about the inside and outside of the home. They are encouraged to choose furnishings and decoration of the home. There is a large garden to the side and rear of the property.

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children. The children have emotional and behavioural difficulties, including attachment problems.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/12/2016	Full	Good
16/02/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
25/08/2015	Full	Good
30/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service 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*.

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