

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020606
Inspector	Matthew Hedges
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	New Horizons (Child Care) Limited
Registered person address	The Keys Group, Laganwood House Newforge Lane BELFAST BT9 5NW
Responsible individual	Heather Ann Laffin
Registered manager	Louise Ann Tolley
Date of last inspection	08/10/2014

Inspection date	09/02/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

Since the last inspection, young people have made good progress in important areas of their life. Most young people attend school regularly. For some the hours that they are attending have increased. Some young people also access additional tutoring. This helps to improve their attainment. Other young people have found employment and training opportunities. Young people are rightly proud of their achievements. This has increased their self-confidence.

Young people's independence skills have improved. Some are now able to use public transport independently. Others cook for themselves. This helps prepare young people for adult life.

Young people's risk taking behaviours are reducing. This improvement has been supported by staff that know young people well and understand their needs. Young people are clear that they feel safe and talk positively about their relationships with staff. There have been a small number of serious incidents. These have included some missing from home incidents and a small number of physical interventions. These incidents have been well responded to by staff. Young people feel supported because of this.

The Registered Manager has implemented a range of improvements in relation to the monitoring of the home. This includes regular reports which identify key actions and areas of progress. The home's development plan has been updated and now includes a plan completed by young people. Young people talk positively about improvements in the home as a result of this.

The Registered Manager has also changed the staffing structure of the home. New staff have been recruited. As a result the use of agency staff have significantly reduced. This improves the consistency of care offered to young people.

The Registered Manager has also developed good links with a number of other agencies. Since the last inspection, she has offered robust challenge to other services on behalf of young people. This has resulted in improvements in some areas including the robustness of the missing from home protocol.

Six requirements and one recommendation were made at the last inspection. These have largely been met. Since the last inspection, monitoring reports are now in place. The home's Statement of Purpose has been updated to add greater clarity to the therapeutic support available to young people. Medication practices have improved dramatically as a result of new recording systems and monitoring. Staff have received updated training in relation to self-harm and physical intervention. Young people's files are kept up to date and hold key information. These actions have improved the quality of the service offered to young people.

One requirement remains unmet. This relates to pre-recruitment checks for some agency staff. One gap in employment remains for one member of staff. Reasons for leaving previous employment with children or vulnerable adults has been sought but not verified. The impact of this shortfall is reduced by the other checks in place and a reduction in the use of agency staff. This has no impact on the welfare of the young people.

One further shortfall was identified at this inspection. The home's consequences record does not include evaluation of the effectiveness of the measure used. This has limited impact on young people due to other systems in place.

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is owned by a private childcare organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/10/2014	Full	adequate
25/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
28/11/2013	Full	good
08/01/2013	Interim	good progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose of which and shall include the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure (Regulation 17B (3) (f))	13/03/2015
26 (2001)	ensure that full and satisfactory information is available in relation to all staff in respect of each of the matters specified in Schedule 2. (Regulation 26 (3) (d))	13/03/2015

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.