

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020608
Inspector	Phillip Morris
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	Karla Louise Dovey
Date of last inspection	02/07/2014

Inspection date	04/03/2015
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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Since the last full inspection in July 2014 the service has addressed the requirement and recommendation made at the time.

Following the last inspection one young person has left the home. This discharge was planned. The home worked to prepare the young person for leaving, working collaboratively with other agencies to ensure this transition went smoothly. New young people have been admitted to the home. These moves have been supported by plans overseen by the Registered Manager. These plans have been developed from information received from the local authority and previous placements. This benefits young people through having the appropriate services in place to meet their needs promptly.

The Registered Manager has failed to ensure that the home is kept clean, well maintained and comfortable. The communal areas of the home are sparsely furnished and not homely. A young person's bedroom has broken furniture and is untidy and messy. The home lacks items to personalise the home for the young people resident. This does not support young people to feel comfortable or proud of their home.

Monitoring of the home from visits by an independent visitor is thorough. Reports by the independent visitor are evaluative and identify areas for development. This provides the Registered Manager with information to form an appropriate action plan.

The Registered Manager has ensured the home has clear policies and procedures in place that contributes to the effective running of the home. This includes maintaining a stable team. When a vacancy does arise recruitment processes are robust. This minimises the possibility of young people being abused by those in a

position of trust. Staff members are supported, supervised and accountable in their work with young people.

There is a shortfall in staff training regarding fire safety, all three young people resident at the home smoke. Staff members do not ensure that young people receive sufficient monitoring of their tobacco use. There is insufficient understanding of the risk to the home in respect of fire.

The home has good safeguarding arrangements in place that are understood by staff. The local safeguarding board policies and procedures are implemented and maintained by the management team. Young people rarely go missing; there has been one missing incident since the last full inspection. This involved two young people who were quickly found. This incident was appropriately addressed with the young people and actions taken to prevent any recurrence.

The home has acted openly and transparently, ensuring that Ofsted are informed of incidents in relation to the young people placed in the home. The Registered Manager has ensured incidents have been dealt with in accordance with policy and procedure.

Young people are benefitting from educational opportunities. They are attending either full time, mainstream education or alternative provision. This is supporting young people to attain a level of academic achievement and develop practical skills. Young people's confidence in their abilities and self-esteem is improving as a result.

Young people's relationships with their families are valued and promoted by the home. The manager and staff ensure direct or indirect contact is taking place regularly and in accordance with care and placement plans. This ensures that young people are able to keep meaningful relationships with those close to them. Young people's needs in terms of understanding their backgrounds, family relationships and reasons why they are in care supports identity development.

Health outcomes for young people are being compromised. All the young people smoke regularly. The manager and staff are failing to put in place measures to stop smoking.

Partnership working is good. For example, the Deputy Manager regularly attends professionals meeting at a local education provider. There is regular communication between professionals and with regular reports provided to the placing local authorities. There are regular meetings to review the young people's plans. At these meetings the views of agencies are taken into account and the plan adjusted accordingly. The home provides reports and attends all reviews. A social worker made the following comments: 'The young person appears very settled in placement overall and he speaks positively about the home. They hold meetings every four weeks to monitor progress and ensure the plan is on track and that agencies can share information'.

Information about this children's home

This home is part of a range of children's services within a private care organisation. The home is registered to offer care and accommodation to four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties; three are accommodated in the main house, one in a satellite unit some little distance away.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/07/2014	Full	adequate
04/02/2014	Interim	good progress
12/07/2013	Full	adequate
26/11/2012	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
20 (2001)	ensure that each child is provided with guidance, support and advice on health issues appropriate to his needs. This is with particular reference to ensuring consistency of challenge to young people who smoke without consent (Regulation 20 (2)(d))	24/04/2015
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are of sound construction and kept in good structural repair externally and internally; kept clean and reasonable decorated and maintained (Regulation 31 (d)(e))	24/04/2015
32 (2001)	ensure and make arrangements for persons working at the home to receive suitable training in fire prevention. (Regulation 32 (d))	24/04/2015

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.