

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	27/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC020611
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	New Horizons (Child Care) Limited
Registered person address	Hurstwood Court, New Hall Hey Road, Rawtenstall, Rawtenstall, Lancashire, BB4 6HR

Responsible individual	Nicola Simmonds
Registered manager	Brenda Nurse
Inspector	Hannah Bates

Inspection date	27/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Requires improvement
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 Requires improvement at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has declined in effectiveness. Since the last inspection there has been a deterioration in the management of this home and in keeping young people safe. At the last inspection six requirements were raised. This inspection found that two of those requirements have not been met, in relation to the escalation of concerns to placing authorities and in relation to enabling young people to learn about safe relationships. Young people's progress has declined. This is due to unsafe peer relationships where young people display violence and aggression to one another as well as inappropriate sexualised behaviours. Staff do not complete planned work with young people enabling them to learn about safe and healthy relationships between one another. Young people's relationships with one another increases their risks within the placement, such as missing incidents and aggressive behaviour. The provision is unable to meet some young people's complex needs. The registered manager does not escalate her concerns to placing authorities regarding the unsuitability of the placement for some young people. She does not ensure that she works effectively and efficiently with placing authorities to secure a necessary transition for some young people into a more suitable placement. This means that some young people continue to live in inappropriate placements where their complex needs cannot be met. This has a detrimental impact on other young people in placement. Since the last inspection one young person has moved from the home in a planned way. However, there is a lack of evidence to demonstrate how the staff ensured he had a positive transition. One young person has arrived at the home since the last inspection. This was a planned admission but during a time when the home is significantly unsettled due to other young people's behaviours and a lack of consistent staff working in the home. This has a potential adverse impact on his emotional wellbeing. Young people's risk taking behaviours have increased. There has been an increase in missing episodes and aggressive outbursts which has led to damage within the	

home and unsafe behaviour to other residents. Young people do not receive independent return interviews after they have been missing. Risk management plans do not contain enough information to be able to inform staff about how to manage incidents of violence or how to keep young people safe both in the home and when in the community; and they are not updated after incidents. Risk management plans do not incorporate the recommendations from assessments about how to work with young people in order to promote their safety and wellbeing. Staff do not learn from incidents and they do not implement new ways of working with young people to try to prevent future occurrences. They work reactively when managing the day to day care of young people. Consequently, young people's risk taking behaviours continue. Whilst staff refer incidents to safeguarding professionals, they do not complete follow up work consistently with young people.

Inconsistent staffing impacts negatively on young people's risk management. A lack of clear and informative guidance within behaviour management plans means that temporary staff do not know what to do in certain incidents; such as where to look for young people when they go missing. Unfamiliar staffing impacts adversely onto young people's emotional wellbeing and consequently risk taking incidents increase. Young people's welfare has not been promoted.

Management oversight within the home has declined. A lack of staffing coupled with an increase in risk taking behaviour means that management oversight has not been as robust as it was in the last inspection. Decisions regarding staffing have been ill thought out and has not promoted young people's safety and welfare. Management oversight is weak. The registered manager has not reviewed or reflected on risk taking incidents in order to find alternative ways of managing risk and consequently, keeping young people safe.

Information about this children's home

The home is a privately owned home. It is registered to provide care for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home cares for young people on a short, medium or long term basis.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/09/2015	CH - Full	Requires improvement
30/03/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness

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

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
5: Engaging with the wider system to ensure children's needs are met In order to meet the engaging with the wider system standard, in respect of mental health services, the registered person must, and must ensure that (a) staff seek to involve each child's placing authority effectively in the child's care, in accordance with the child's relevant plans; (b) 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.	01/04/2016
6: The quality and purpose of care standard In order to meet the quality and purpose of care standard, the registered person must ensure that staff – (2) (b) (ii) protect and promote each child's welfare; (iv) provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background.	01/04/2016
11: The positive relationships standard In order to meet the positive relationships standard the registered person must ensure that staff (2) (a) (i) meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as	01/04/2016

set out in the child's relevant plans; (vi) help each child to understand, in a way that is appropriate according to the child's age and understanding, personal, sexual and social relationships, and how those relationships can be supportive or harmful.	
12: The protection of children standard In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered person must ensure that staff (a)(i) assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; (iv) manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; (b) that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm.	01/04/2016
13: Leadership and management standard In order to meet the Leadership and Management standard the registered person must ensure that they enable, inspire and lead a culture in the home that (1) (b) promotes their welfare; (2) (e) ensure that the home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child; (f) understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home.	01/04/2016

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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