

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020611
Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Email	Brendanurse@keyschildcare.co.uk
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	Brenda Lucille Nurse
Date of last inspection	24/09/2014

Inspection date	30/03/2015
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 **improved effectiveness**.

At the last inspection, twelve requirements and one recommendation were made all of which have been addressed. Young people's educational attendance and attainment is now promoted through the support provide by the staff team. The home's Statement of Purpose has been undated to ensure it includes all required information. The Registered Manager ensures the home's operation is consistent with this document as well as making proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of young people. The written policy which sets out the procedure to follow in the event of a child protection matter is now implemented in practice to ensure young people's safety is promoted in full.

Where a physical restraint is used, the record now includes the duration of the event to help managers evaluate the appropriateness of the intervention. Young people are now provided with accommodation that has been improved with new décor and furnishings, their health and safety is fully promoted. Consents are now in place for the use of bedroom door alarms. Young people's records are complete and kept up-to-date to ensure their time at the home is fully reflected in individual case files. The staff team's practice and work with young people is now supported by regular supervision, appraisal and training. There are new arrangements for carrying out interviews with young people when they return to the home if they are reported as missing. Finally, the Registered Manager has appropriate quality assurance systems to evaluate the home's operation and to determine what is being achieved for each young person.

Young people are enabled to make positive changes in their lives to help counter previously harmful and risky conduct such as anti-social and offending behaviours. Risks associated with these areas have reduced over recent months although staff remain vigilant and focused on methods of prevention and rehabilitation. Staff have good links and networks with police and youth offending services to help young

people stay on-track and sustain their improving behaviours.

Young people state that they feel safe in the home and with the staff who look after them. Staff use established procedures and practices to help protect young people and promote their safety. Detailed assessments are in place, which identify areas of risk and vulnerability. Staff use this information to shape their daily work with young people which includes managing and reducing risks associated with being missing from care. Patterns of absconding behaviour and being missing from care have reduced significantly since the last inspection. Staff and young people have successfully worked together to find ways of behaving that are less risky and damaging.

Young people's needs in relation to their good health and welfare are being consistently met. For some young people, their health is improving because they have stopped smoking or are using alternatives that are less harmful. Staff are encouraging and supportive which is a motivating factor for young people to maintain these changes.

Young people feel consulted about their care and support arrangements. Staff have regular contact with young people as a group and on a one-to-one basis so they are able to discuss and plan their daily routines. This helps the staff team organise themselves in a way that ensures each young person gets the right support and help when needed. Young people know how to complain if they are not happy about something. Complaints are taken seriously and dealt with in a way that young people are satisfied with.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to accommodate up to three young people of either gender with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The service is owned by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/09/2014	Full	adequate
19/03/2014	Interim	good progress
18/12/2013	Full	good
19/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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.