

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	03/01/2017
Unique reference number	SC024808
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Keys Education Limited
Registered provider address	Hurstwood Court, Laganwood House, New Hall Hey Road, Rossendale, Lancashire, BB4 6HR

Responsible individual	Marc Murphy
Registered manager	Post vacant
Inspector	Louise Battersby

Inspection date	03/01/2017
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 sustained effectiveness. The registered manager left in July 2016 and the deputy manager took over the management of the home. The new manager is in the process of applying to Ofsted to be the home's new registered manager. The property has undergone substantial improvement work. This means that young people now benefit from new carpets and decor. Further work is also planned. This includes a new kitchen being fitted soon. Since the last inspection, three young people have left the home. Staff have facilitated these moves and have worked with other professionals to minimise the young people's anxieties during the transition. However, the same level of oversight has not been applied to a recent admission. The manager has not fully risk assessed the new admission to take into account the risks posed from the young person already in placement. For example, despite the manager being in agreement with other professionals that the current young person required a solo placement due to the level of risk, another young person was placed at the home. Not all professionals were consulted about this decision in a timely manner. Furthermore, the manager has not fully considered vital current and historic behaviours displayed from the current young person and the impact this could have on the new young person's safety and well-being. The absence of a rigorous risk assessment compromises the protection of the young people. Young people benefit from having their health promoted and their education attainment enhanced through increased school attendance. For example, the manager has worked hard to ensure that a young person now attends school and health appointments. Young people told the inspector that they are happy at the home. Young people feel well cared for, listened to, and appreciate that staff want to help them. There are a number of activities on offer both inside and outside of the home and staff actively promote these activities by joining in. This includes walking, ice skating and playing pool.	

The staff have a 'never give up attitude' in the care of young people. Even in a time of crisis the manager and staff try their very best to support the young people and to help them to make safe informed decisions.

The new manager has worked hard to make improvements within the home. The home is more welcoming and there are further plans to make it more personalised to the young people. The staff team have been helped to develop their practice with more emphasis being placed on the principles of reflective practice.

There were six requirements and one recommendation raised at the last inspection. Most of these have been met. Young people now feel that they have their wishes and feelings are listened too, advocates have been appointed and staff have completed training to help them to meet the young people's needs. Young people are involved in their care planning and are now receiving return from care interviews. However, the manager has still not fully risk assessed the impact of the young people's placements on each other.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered for four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a large private organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/05/2016	Full	Requires improvement
31/03/2016	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
19/01/2016	Full	Requires improvement
12/02/2015	Interim	Sustained 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
12: The protection of children standard. In order to meet the protection of children standard, the registered person must (with specific reference to risk assessments): (1) ensure that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. (2) In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— (a)(i) that staff 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.	01/03/2017

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- Ensure that the home develops and maintains effective working relationships with local youth justice and police services when children in their care have targets to achieve in reducing offending or socially unacceptable behaviour. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 38, paragraph 8.5)

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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