

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC362094
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	16/01/2015

Inspection date	18/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Since the last inspection, young people continue to make good progress. Education attendance has improved and as a result, young people achieve more academically. A social worker noted a young person's, 'Remarkable progress' since living at the home. A teacher also commented on a, 'Dramatic improvement in attendance.' Parents are pleased about this and talk positively about young people's achievements. As a result, some young people have made significant progress in their relationships with their families. This enables them to spend more time together. This is underpinned by robust support from staff who ensure all professionals work consistently to support this.

Partnership working with other agencies remains strong. Professionals talk positively about this. A social worker commented that, 'Communication is brilliant A teacher felt the home is, 'very supportive'. Managers continue to challenge other agencies when this is required and are quick to offer their support. This has had a positive impact on outcomes for young people.

Significant incidents are rare and staff respond appropriately. Positive behaviour is rewarded and consequences for negative behaviour are minimal. This approach helps young people to reflect on their behaviour. As a result, their behaviour improves. One reward record was not fully completed. Due to this, it is impossible to evidence whether the measure was reasonable, fair, and understood by all staff and young people. This is a recording error and has little impact on young people. There have been no physical interventions and no complaints. Young people have not been missing from the home since the last inspection. This is because of the relationships that exist between staff and young people. Young people comment positively about staff.

Management arrangements are robust. Managers continue to monitor the

effectiveness of the home and the quality of care provided. There were no shortfalls identified at the last inspection. Young people continue to be involved in formulating the home's development plan. Action has been taken since the last inspection to address some of these areas. This has improved the robustness of the service available to young people. In contrast, managers have highlighted a number of parts of the home that require maintenance. This is yet to be addressed and has been subject to considerable delay. This means that young people live in a home that, in some areas, is not aesthetically pleasing or comfortable. In addition, some areas of the environment are not risk assessed to identify any potential sources of harm to young people. Specifically this relates to the use of an electrical appliance. The impact of this is reduced by other processes and checks that are in place.

Information about this children's home

This home is one of a number of children's homes operated by a private provider organisation. The home is registered to accommodate two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/01/2015	Full	good
25/03/2014	Interim	good progress
05/12/2013	Full	outstanding
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
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained. (Regulation 31 (2) (e))	23/04/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure that rewards for behaviour are clear, reasonable and fair and are understood by all staff and children (NMS 3.8)
- ensure that risk assessments of the whole children's home environment are carried out, to identify any potential sources of harm to the children are recorded in writing and regularly reviewed. (NMS 10.8)

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.