

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC374268
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	BetterCare Keys Limited
Registered person address	Laganwood House 44 Newforge Lane Belfast BT9 5NW
Responsible individual	Heather Ann Laffin
Registered manager	Christine Suzzanna Matthews-Harvey
Date of last inspection	17/12/2014

Inspection date	27/03/2015
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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**.

At the previous inspection in December 2014, the overall quality rating for this home was judged as good, with two identified shortfalls. This home has sustained progress since the last inspection addressing the two recommendations made.

Young people benefit from stable and long term placements. Young people make good progress with their education from their starting points on admission. Staff have high aspirations for young people and seek appropriate educational placements to ensure young people's talents and abilities are valued and they are able to gain qualifications and skills. Staff successfully support young people to think about future employment and what qualifications and skills they will need for their future.

Young people are encouraged and supported by staff to be as independent as possible. They are encouraged to shop and cook their own meals. Young people are supported to become equipped with the skills they need to move onto independent living. Transition plans are comprehensive and document the aims of the placement. Plans are regularly updated and reviewed as necessary.

A strength of the home is the consistent implementation of behaviour management plans and the positive impact these have on helping young people to improve their behaviour. Young people are able to make progress due to effective behaviour management strategies and a stable and consistent staff team who maintain boundaries and have high expectations and aspirations for young people.

Observation during the inspection showed the relationships between staff and young people are warm, caring and staff have a good understanding of each young person's needs. Young people receive high levels of supervisions due to their vulnerability. Staff ensure that young people are fully able to exercise their choice and regular meetings are held to discuss their wishes and any areas of concern.

Partnership working is evident. Staff effectively communicate with other services to ensure young people's needs are met. There is regular contact with the community police officer who visits the home to talk to staff and young people. Good partnership working exists with schools and there is regular contact with the in house therapy team.

The home continues to be led by a committed and experienced Registered Manager. The manager is well established and has a good understanding of the strengths and development needs of the home.

Information about this children's home

This home offers medium to long-term care for a maximum of three young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by a large national provider of children's residential care.

Specific direct work and individual therapy programmes are provided to young people by a qualified and experienced psychotherapist, employed by the provider organisation, who makes weekly visits to the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/12/2014	Full	good
18/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
06/06/2013	Full	adequate
09/10/2012	Interim	inadequate 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.