

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC012021
Inspection date	12/01/2012
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	01/08/2011
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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 progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection (March 2011)*.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is a charitable trust providing education and residential care for up to 29 young people with complex learning difficulties.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

At the last inspection in August 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with one recommendation. The home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided, with a clear and focused commitment to service development. Particular strengths of the home include integrated social and emotional learning alongside more formal education, and the commitment of the enthusiastic and experienced staff team to promote a positive living and learning environment.

The recommendation set at the last inspection was concerning appropriate living spaces to promote development. The home is still seeking planning permission to decommission the affected units and replace them with purpose-built properties. The process is subject to planning regulations set out by the local authority. While the units are well maintained, it is recognised that they are not necessarily appropriate to the development of the young people living in them. However, staff strive to provide the best experiences for young people's development in the limited space.

Young people continue to receive well-planned care provided by a committed and competent staff team. Staff promote positive behaviour and aim to ignore unwanted behaviour in a caring environment. Young people have positive relationships with staff who clearly understand their individual needs. Staff have a robust understanding of safeguarding and how to keep young people safe. Mentors in each unit monitor any areas for individual staff development. The culture and practice within the home promotes individual identity, ability and equality. As a result, young people receive high-quality care and support based on their individual identified needs.

Since the last inspection, a great deal of consideration has been given to evaluate the current service and to plan for future areas of development, including the new building programme. Effective monitoring systems review the quality of care that young people receive and identify areas where outcomes for them may be improved. Extremely detailed reports of monitoring visits that take place on a regular basis are produced. These reports demonstrate an excellent level of consultation with staff and young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure all units provide suitable, well-designed environments that are fit for their purpose to promote young people's development (NMS 10).