

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020193
Inspection date	14/02/2013
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	01/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is registered to provide care for up to 25 children and young people with learning difficulties. It is part of a residential special school and owned by a private organisation.

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.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in August 2012 the overall rating for the home was judged as good, with two statutory requirements set within the inspection report. Since that time the children's home has demonstrated good progress.

The manager has appropriately addressed the requirement that records of physical interventions accurately describe the behaviour that led to the intervention. The introduction of a newly revised central log enables precise recording. This means increased effectiveness of monitoring and safeguarding processes.

The requirement to ensure that suitable arrangements are made for the recording of any medications is evidenced with accurate records and robust administration of medication practice.

The home continues to develop and maintain good outcomes for young people due to the expertise in understanding the causes of behaviour. The Registered Manager states that the influence of the residential school's headteacher is a hugely positive influence in the operation of the home. This collaboration ensures staff and other

professionals work to improve young people's emotional, educational, social and psychological outcomes.

Young people continue to learn, develop and progress. Young people live in a structured environment which supports positive behaviour management and clear routines for daily living. Young people develop and learn because of a nurturing and enabling staff team.

Young people receive good quality of care from a professional and dedicated staff team. Staff are encouraged to enhance their professional development and develop specific areas of professional practice. Staff comment that they benefit from a home which is a highly enjoyable place to work and that they feel fulfilled in their work.

The management of this home is effective and progressive. The Registered Manager is accomplished, knowledgeable and highly motivated. His commitment to continuing professional development is demonstrated with his involvement in a Department of Education project for children's homes managers. The aim of this group is to enable best practice to be shared within a peer mentor group. The leadership of the management team provides a solid framework, which ensures the smooth operation of all aspects of the home. Young people benefit from the consistency which the staff and management provide.

There are clear development plans to promote improvement for young people, staff and the home environment. Examples include the extensive renovation and refurbishment of the home. This includes converting some areas of the home into self-contained flats for young people to develop their life skills. Young people have been fully involved in participating in choosing their décor and furnishings. This enhances the home environment and provides a personalised environment in which young people can develop the skills needed when they make the transition to semi - independence

The effective operation of the home is further reinforced with rigorous monitoring arrangements. Extensive and detailed quality assurance systems are undertaken internally and by external visitors. This means close monitoring of the quality of care, outcomes for young people and the effective management of the home.

A particular strength of the management and staff team is their commitment to promoting issues of equality and diversity. One example is the active involvement of young people in the recruitment of social care staff. This means young people actively participate in their care and their views are central to the homes operation.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection. The management team and staff are skilled and are clear about what is necessary to ensure that young people continue to receive high standards of care. No statutory requirements or recommendations are made as a result of this visit.

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*.