

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034415
Inspection date	9 September 2009
Inspector	David Martin
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	24 February 2009
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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.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

This residential special school, which is a registered children's home, is located on a semi-rural site. The school can accommodate up to 43 boys or girls, aged five to 18 years. It provides care for young people with learning and physical disabilities and complex health care needs.

Children are accommodated in two units. One is located within the main building and provides four single bedrooms and eight shared bedrooms. The other is a separate building and comprises of three purpose built interlinking bungalows.

Summary

This unannounced interim inspection was undertaken to assess the children's home performance against national minimum standards under the staying safe outcome area.

The home continues to operate to a high standard ensuring that young people are supported and looked after safely. Care for young people is well planned.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

No actions or recommendations were made as a result of the last inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The staff ensure that the privacy and dignity of young people is respected. This is reflected in day to day care practice. Records are stored securely and staff understand the confidential nature of the work. Upholding the privacy of young people is set out as one of the core principles in the statement of purpose.

There have been no complaints in the period since the last inspection. Information about raising concerns is well publicised and there are advocacy arrangements in place. Stakeholders have been provided with details of the regulatory authority. These measures ensure that concerns can be raised through a number of different channels and that complaints are used to improve practice.

There have been no child protection concerns since the last inspection. Staff have received child protection and safeguarding training which addressed issues specifically relating to young people with learning disabilities. The staff are confident about reporting any child protection matters. The child protection system in place helps to protect young people from abuse.

Due to the profound nature of the young people's disabilities and high staffing levels the home does not experience unauthorised absence. Similarly bullying is not a feature of life in the home. The home has well established systems in place to encourage positive behaviour. Staff

have completed training in managing behaviour and have a range of appropriate techniques and skills to assist them. There are detailed behaviour management plans in place which promote consistent care and support. Sanctions are not used. These steps contribute to the overall safety and wellbeing of young people.

Young people live in a home that is safely maintained. Staff are recruited in line with robust vetting procedures. This contributes to the protection and safety of young people.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is not judged.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.