

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035241
Inspection date	07/01/2013
Inspector	Robert Curr
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	20/06/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is operated by a charitable trust and registered to accommodate four children of either sex aged from 5 to 17 years who have a sensory impairment.

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 June 2012, the home achieved an overall judgement of good. At this interim inspection, the home's progress with the requirements made at the last inspection, were reviewed. The home's consultation strategies have been developed within its quality monitoring programme. This development enables young people to meaningfully interact with the external visitor, and to contribute towards the assessment of quality in the home. This means that all available evidence is used well, to inform the home's external quality monitoring programme. The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed and now contains information relating to the qualifications and experience of the persons responsible for the service. Therefore the requirements are met.

Young people have made continued progress within their placement. This is due to consistently well planned and implemented care. Young people's abilities are optimised through consistent use of tailor made communication systems, and well informed care staff. For example, young people have improved their self-help skills, and communication abilities. These elements demonstrate the service-wide positive culture, which is consistently evident.

The home continues to be efficiently and conscientiously managed. A young person said, 'My behaviour is much better at bed time and I want to stay here until I am 18, or longer.' Young people benefit from a homely environment with a strong staff team who are 'really good to us', as a young person said. Young people feel safe and secure and they make good progress at this home. They all benefit from 100% attendance at school and some have won awards for this, thereby promoting positive educational outcomes.

During the summer, young people enjoyed a camping holiday. They spoke with enthusiasm and excitement about their experience.

The children's residential service features clearly in the organisations developmental planning. Innovative short and longer term objectives are well evidenced.

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*.