

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035241
Inspection date	07/01/2014
Inspector	Lynne Busby
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	23/08/2013
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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 inspection in August 2013, the overall effectiveness was judged as good. This interim looked at the progress made since that inspection; the recommendation raised has been addressed.

Young people benefit from the support of staff who provide a warm and nurturing environment where they can develop and progress. Staff are committed and enthusiastic and want the young people to have positive, enjoyable experiences and are child-centred in their approach.

Young people are cared for by a strong, consistent staff team who are appropriately trained to meet their needs. Staff are knowledgeable about safeguarding procedures and these are followed should any concerns be raised. Young people say they feel safe in the home and they can talk to staff if they have any concerns. There are clear systems in place if young people wish to make a complaint and staff will assist them to give their views.

Young people have made good improvement in all areas including communicating more effectively which promotes opportunities to socialise. In addition, some young

people's behaviour has improved significantly resulting in them being a lot calmer and happier. The impact has been that relationships with other young people and staff has improved.

The home is comfortable and welcoming and provides young people with a place to relax after their school day. Young people say they like their rooms and have had an opportunity to choose the decoration. Rooms are personalised which reflects the young people's identity. However, windows on the first floor open wide and there are no risk assessments in place that identify possible hazards. This has not impacted on children's safety to date however the implementation of risk assessments alerts staff to how risks can be minimised.

There has been a change in accommodation with the addition of a separate flat which is available for young people to use depending on their individual needs.

The manager has a good understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement required. There are effective quality systems in place and action is taken on any recommendations made to improve the service. The quality assurance monitoring systems reports are forwarded to Ofsted within the recommended intervals.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
11 (2001)	promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there by ensuring risk assessments clearly identify potential hazards such as opening windows (Regulation 11 (a))	21/02/2014

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*.