

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035241
Inspector	Jamie Richardson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Registered manager	Catherine Anne Warner
Date of last inspection	07/01/2014

Inspection date	26/02/2015
Previous inspection	good progress
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

All requirements and recommendations raised at the last full inspection conducted in January 2015 have been fully addressed.

A requirement around the creation of individual missing person's risk assessments has been completed. The new risk assessments give specific regard to young people's individual disabilities and their vulnerability. Associated risks involving missing young people such as child sexual exploitation are integrated into this assessment. In addition to this, the manager has made positive links with the local missing person's police officer who has contributed further towards effective risk assessments and the missing from home policy. No young people have been missing from this home since the last inspection. Should any episode occur staff have a comprehensive protocol to follow to safeguard the young people involved.

A requirement around the recording, handling and safekeeping of medication has been met. A new comprehensive recording system for the administration of medication has been introduced following the advice of a trained nurse. This makes monitoring and auditing of medication clear. As a result any issues can be quickly identified and addressed. In addition to this, a trained nurse is auditing medication practice on a weekly basis through spot checks and routine audits. Staff have already received some training and a more in-depth training is already booked. As a further safeguard additional staff have been employed at medication times to ensure focus is on the safe administration of drugs.

A recommendation around the clarity of staff roles and responsibility was made. There is now a clear on call duty system in place. Consequently staff report feeling more confident in knowing who to contact for support if needed. In addition to this, the whole management structure has been reviewed. As a result a deputy manager

post has been created. This will support staff in the absence of the manager and will further strengthen the monitoring and support for young people and staff on a daily basis.

A recommendation was made to ensure records are clear, up-to-date and contribute to an understanding of a child's life. This has been fully met. At the previous inspection the recording of physical intervention and significant incidents was not clear. The whole system has now been revised and new physical intervention and significant incident books have been created. This now shows clear definition between incidents' and enables the manager to effectively monitor young people's behaviour and staff practice. Young people's behaviour remains effectively managed and there have been no physical interventions since last inspection and only seven minor incidents.

School attendance and the progress of young people remains excellent. This very specialist environment continues to provide exceptional academic and social opportunities for young people. A seamless and holistic approach to young people's care and education enables young people to grow in confidence and develop in every area of their lives. One professional commented 'He is very happy at the school and the home. He wants to stay there. He was a very troubled young man and now he has aspirations, he is confident and assertive, he has developed in every way. Absolutely fantastic.'

The manager's oversight of the home is evaluative. She remains dedicated to continually improve practice of staff and progress of the young people. The management team continue to explore new ideas and focus on continual development to provide young people with quality and meaningful care. The voice of young people is central to this. A young people's feelings board and comments box has recently been introduced in consultation with young people. As a result young people have shared their feelings on this board which has allowed staff to effectively explore these. This helps to make young people feel valued and their voice heard.

Information about this children's home

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.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/01/2014	Interim	good progress
23/08/2013	Full	good
07/01/2013	Interim	good progress
20/06/2012	Full	good

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information 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 main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.