

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035518
Inspection date	20/03/2012
Inspector	Karen Forster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	11/01/2012
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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 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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is owned and managed by a charitable organisation. It is registered to provide both short breaks and longer-term care to children and young people with complex disabilities and sensory impairment. The home also accommodates young people aged over 18. The home forms part of a school campus and the school is inspected separately by Ofsted.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection January 2012 the home achieved an overall judgement of outstanding. At this interim inspection, the home's progress with the recommendation made at the last inspection, were reviewed. The home has developed their consultation strategies within their 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. Therefore the recommendation is met.

Young people are informed about the homes complaints procedure through the home's poster for comments and concerns. The poster is in symbol form and accessible by young people; however it includes the wrong contact address for Ofsted. Therefore a recommendation relating to this issue is raised following this inspection.

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 aids and adaptations, and well informed care staff. For example, young people have improved their self help skills, mobility and communication abilities. These elements demonstrate the service wide 'can do' culture, which is consistently evident.

The children's residential service features clearly in the centre's developmental planning. Innovative short and longer term objectives are well evidenced, while honestly capturing the current market pressures for both service commissioners and providers.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure young people can contact Ofsted should they wish to raise a concern. This relates to Ofsted's postal address being correct within the home's complaints poster. (NMS 13.5)