

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035518
Inspection date	29/01/2013
Inspector	Robert Curr
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	18/10/2012
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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.

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**.

This home was judged as outstanding at the previous full inspection in October 2012. Following this interim inspection, this home is judged to be making good progress, for example in relation to the recommendation identified at the previous inspection. A new format has been developed for gathering information from staff and young people during the independent visits on behalf of the registered provider. The people conducting these visits have now undertaken training to use these new methods. However, these have not yet been put into practice. Current reports of these visits are attempting to capture the views and opinions of young people and staff to drive improvement, but this practice is inconsistent across the independent visitors.

Staff are regularly monitoring and reviewing young people's behaviour management and care plans within their monthly progress reports. These reports demonstrate improved practices following episodes of challenging behaviours. One social worker states that the young person he works with 'has much improved and the staff always endeavour to find ways to help him deal with his emotions.' There has been a clear

reduction in the need for staff to use physical interventions. Young people's good behaviours are promoted and young people are safeguarded more.

Young people are actively encouraged to set and understand their individual targets. One young person can now use her communication aid independently whilst another is paying for his own shopping at the shop. This promotes young people's well-being and self-esteem and builds their confidence.

The quality of care within the home remains good and has continued to improve with improved focus on education. All young people are participating in full-time education thereby enabling and promoting positive educational outcomes. This enhances young people's sense of achievement.

Young people are provided with a safe, caring and stimulating environment by the enthusiastic and committed manager and staff team. Young people feel valued in their home where they can develop and achieve in areas such as education and physical and emotional well-being.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the children in the home and their parents are regularly involved in contributing their views and any concerns, in particular during the independent person's monitoring visits. (NMS 21.1)

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*.