

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Dawn Taylor
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Date of last inspection	14/09/2010
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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.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

This provision is a children's home registered by Ofsted and a 52 week independent residential special school, registered and approved by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for boys and girls aged six to 18 years with severe and complex learning needs. It has 10 residential homes with places for a total of 72 children. All students have a statement of special educational needs and are funded, currently, by 38 local authorities. Many who enter this service have had several unsuccessful placements in previous schools. Each home is managed by a team leader and line managed through the Care Management team and the Head of Care.

The homes are as follows and accommodate the following number and age range of children:

Beech is a group home that accommodates eight children and young people over 14 years,

Birch is a group home that accommodates 11 children and young people, plus one respite bed, over 14 years,

Bracken is a group home that accommodates seven children and young people over 14 years,

Maple is a group home that accommodates six children and young people under 16 years,

Elm is a group home that accommodates seven young people over 14 years,

Firs is a group home that accommodates seven young people over 14 years,

Orchard is a group home that accommodates seven children and young people under 16 years,

Home Farm is a group home that accommodates six young people over 14 years,

Oak is a group home that accommodates six children and young people under 14 years and

Rowen is a group home that accommodates six children and young people under 16 years.

This service is a charitable organisation run by a board of trustees.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

This was an unannounced interim inspection. This inspection focused on the key standards in staying safe.

This home continues to be judged as good and the outcome judgement for staying safe is good. This service continues to re-evaluate its standard of care and develop its services to ensure outcomes for students are strong.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations made at the last inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and young people's safety continues to be paramount and strategies to promote this continue to be developed. Staff demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the privacy and dignity of children and young people. There are comprehensive policies and procedures for all safeguarding practices. These include safeguarding, countering bullying, addressing complaints, promoting appropriate behaviour, absence of a child or young person without authority and notification of significant events. These underpin an established staff induction and training programme that ensure children and young people are supported by a professional and well informed staff team.

Children and young people are informed of the importance of keeping themselves safe through discussion/symbols and guidance of health and safety issues. Staff give good attention to workplace safety. There is a health and safety audit completed which demonstrates the organisation's commitment to high standards. All children and young people are provided with personalised risk assessments. This means that staff are educating children and young people about potential problems and minimising risks related to their safety.

Children and young people continue to be protected by the school's robust recruitment systems that ensures all staff employed complete the necessary recruitment checks and are deemed suitable to work before commencement of employment. A high number of key staff have attended safer recruitment training, this demonstrates the school's continuing commitment to the further development of the staff vetting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is not judged.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.