

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC038435
Inspector	Dawn Bennett
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Email	sunfield@sunfield.org.uk
Registered manager	Mark Brocklebank
Date of last inspection	26/11/2014

Inspection date	18/03/2015
Previous inspection	good
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 **sustained effectiveness**.

This service was judged to be good at the full inspection in November 2014. Two requirements and two recommendations were made at this last inspection. One requirement and both recommendations have been met. Immediate gaps in staff vetting checks have been addressed. The service has also reviewed its staff vetting systems and has introduced quality assurance checks to reduce the likelihood of any future shortfalls.

The second requirement was to ensure all staff receive regular supervision. The service has in place a clear plan to meet this requirement and significant work has already been undertaken. The number of senior staff in each residential house, trained to deliver supervision has increased. The structure of the school day has also recently changed. This has freed up more time for residential staff to be available to give and receive supervision. There has been a month on month improvement in the delivery of supervision since the last inspection. This continues to be monitored by the senior management team and by the Regulation 33 visitor. This work is on-going at the point of this inspection.

The service is making a positive difference to the lives of young people with complex learning disabilities. It provides good quality care that supports them to achieve good outcomes. Young people benefit from clear routines and a consistency of practice from all professional staff working across the residential houses and school. For example, speech, language, and behaviour management plans ensure all staff implement appropriate strategies to work towards agreed aims for each young person. Because of this consistent practice young people are settled and secure and are able to learn new skills. They make continuous improvements in educational attainment through good attendance. They develop social skills through a wide range of on and off site activities. They increase their independence through developing their personal and life skills, for example self-care skills such as teeth brushing and washing.

Young people are kept safe from harm in this service. The Registered Manager and

senior staff team work well with partner agencies, parents and carers. There is effective communication and coordination to ensure that any concerns are dealt with effectively and in a timely manner. The service continue to review and develop safeguarding strategies and introduce new training to all staff. There are systems in place that collate reports and ensure senior managers have a corporate overview of incidents of challenging and high risk behaviours. However, some incidents, and strategies implemented to manage them, are not recorded in detail. This does not safeguard staff or young people as it does not enable practice to be monitored.

The senior management team is in the process of being restructured. They are experienced, committed and effective at continuing to progress the service. The Registered Manager routinely and effectively monitors the running of the service. Existing quality assurance processes continue to be strengthened and new systems introduced. This ensures the Registered Manager and senior management team are well informed about the quality of care being provided to the young people.

Information about this children's home

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 Education. It is for boys and girls aged 6 to 17 years with severe and complex learning needs.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/11/2014	Full	good
04/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
02/05/2013	Full	adequate
19/03/2013	Interim	good progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

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
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written records in made. (Regulation 17B (3) and (4))	30/04/2015

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.