

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC038435
Inspection date	25/01/2012
Inspector	Dawn Taylor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	05/05/2011
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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 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 for boys and girls aged six to 17 years with severe and complex learning needs.

There are 10 residential homes accommodating in total 72 young people between the specified age ranges. All young people have a statement of special educational needs. 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.

Progress

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

This home was judged as outstanding at the last full inspection in May 2011. It is judged that this home continues to be making good progress following this inspection. There were no previous requirements or recommendations and none were made as a result of this inspection.

Young people continue to make excellent progress in many aspects of their lives. This includes increasing their communication skills, socialising with others, developing tools to self-moderate their behaviours, and learning independence skills. All young people are consistently attending education and, where appropriate, work experience placements. They are supported to achieve this by an experienced team of specialist staff who know the young people well. One parent stated, 'I feel that the staff genuinely care for my child.'

Managers, independent visitors and the external Regulation 33 visitor continue to undertake regular, thorough monitoring visits to all the homes across the site. These processes effectively raise issues and concerns as well as highlighting positive practice and outcomes. Any shortfalls raised are quickly addressed and monitored by the senior management team for patterns or trends.

Internal systems of quality assurance are integral to the operation of this service and continue to be developed. For example, a framework for evaluating the quality of provision provided by the psychology and therapy department has been introduced. In February 2012, a self-supported, integrated inspection is due to take place. This will be undertaken by a team of independent professionals and will examine how the service's education, care and specialist services work together to share information and plan coherently to meet individual young people's needs.

The service has a detailed strategic plan that focuses on four main target areas:

leadership and management; standards and achievements; personal development and well-being; and department-specific targets. The plan sets out clear aims and objectives within realistic time frames. The ongoing work recognises the strengths of the service as well as key areas for development. As a result, the service continues to raise standards, enhance the quality of care and achieve excellent outcomes for young people.