

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC044224
Inspection date	03/02/2014
Inspector	Lynn O'Driscoll
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home offers care and accommodation, for up to four young people, of both genders, who have severe learning disabilities compounded by significant challenging behaviours, autism and complex medical conditions.

It is part of a wider private organisation that offers transition from this home to adult residential provision registered with the Care Quality Commission. It also runs an independent 52 week school. It is co-educational and caters for pupils and students from the age of 7 to 19 years old.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

The overall effectiveness of this home was judged to be good at the last full inspection on 4 June 2013. Outcomes for young people and the quality of care provided were outstanding. Safeguarding and leadership and management were judged to be good.

Feedback from social workers remains positive in respect to the quality of care provided and the consequent progress young people are making. Examples include, 'He is very settled in this placement and without the high level of support provided he would not be able to manage his frustration and anxieties. He has a good relationship with the staff and is being supported to be more independent. He is on two to one staffing due to the complexity of his needs which enables him to have a

varied social calendar which meets his needs' and, 'The quality of care is always brilliant, particularly as he has such complex needs. He continues to make progress and benefits a lot from the consistent approach at the home and school.' Another social worker identified, 'Good partnership working with parents' as a particular strength of this home and, 'Excellent reports which provide detailed insight into how each child is progressing. I have always been impressed with the service offered'.

An independent reviewing officer confirmed satisfaction with the level of care and education provided within this company and confirmed, 'The young person has made excellent progress and obsessions have reduced.' A parent said, 'My son's speech has really improved in this home. I think the staff are brilliant.'

Young people are happy and settled at this home. They love their personalised bedrooms, enjoy the good range of activities on offer and like the meals provided. New menus have recently been revised specifically to incorporate all their favourite meals. They are all continuing to make good progress, especially given their individual starting points. Examples include: name recognition; counting; ability to measure ingredients when learning to cook; using a camera; playing the piano; using crayons and paintbrushes and eating habits have demonstrably improved.

Staff are strong and successful advocates for the young people. Consequently, one young person is having increased constructive contact with his family. Staff also ensure young people receive correct medical diagnoses and thereby ensuring young people receive the most effective treatments. The staff prepare young people particularly well for health appointments as this can raise anxieties. Consequently, one young person recently attended a busy health centre, patiently waited his turn and had his required immunisations. This is significant progress. One young person is noticeably gaining confidence to try new activities in the local community.

The two requirements made at the last full inspection have been satisfactorily addressed. Consequently: more robust monitoring systems are now in place and more effective systems to ensure: timely and robust probation processes; all staff complete mandatory training and required refresher courses in a timely manner; and, all staff receive regular staff supervision and annual appraisals. All unqualified staff are now enrolled on a suitable course.

As required, all health and safety certificates are now in place and fire checks are consistently undertaken at the required frequencies. This better ensures a safe and well-maintained building. However, the paths around the property are in poor condition and are a potential trip hazard. Also the security light doesn't work. These have been identified by the home, but no date agreed to address these health and safety concerns by the company.

Two recommendations were also made at the last inspection. In response, the individual risk assessments in place, in regard to locking the external doors, have now been agreed by the responsible placing authorities and parents. However, a risk assessment has not been produced in respect to the appropriateness of the home's location, which is on a busy road. This legally required document is relevant to the

current practice of locking of doors, which is a restriction of liberty.

As recommended, the home's development plan has been revised and confirms in writing that this service remains financially viable to maintain its current purpose and function and resources. This home is always well staffed to meet the highly complex needs and associated extreme challenging behaviours of the young people accommodated.

Recent improvements to the home include the redecoration and refurbishment of the main lounge and dining area to a particularly good standard. Young people's bedrooms have also been redecorated and furnished to individual needs and preferences and new carpets fitted in the hall, stairs and landing.

Since the last inspection, some staff have appropriately enacted the home's internal whistle blowing procedures and Ofsted complaints procedure to safeguard and protect the welfare of the young people in placement. These were taken seriously, fully investigated, and actions taken to improve practice. However, they were not notified to Ofsted.

Areas for improvement

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
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home is kept in good structural repair externally and internally and in particular: improve the safety and security of the grounds (Regulation 31(2)(d))	31/03/2014
31 (2001)	review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the children's home (Regulation 31(1a)(b))	28/02/2014
30 (2001)	ensure Ofsted is informed, without delay, of all significant incidents as detailed in Schedule 5. (Regulation 30)	28/02/2014

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*.