

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC044231
Inspection date	27/03/2014
Inspector	Anne Bannister
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/07/2013
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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 which is co-educational and caters for pupils and students from the age of 7 to 19 years.

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 interim inspection focused on progress made by the home since the last full inspection in July 2013, at which time the overall effectiveness was judged to be adequate. The manager has addressed the one requirement and six recommendations raised as a result of the previous inspection.

Recruitment practice protects the vulnerable young people being cared for and ensures that staff have the skills and competencies to meet the needs of individual young people.

Young people's health and emotional well-being is promoted effectively. They are protected by safe practices within the home which ensure they receive the health care they need in order to promote their well-being.

Improvements in behaviour management strategies have resulted in a reduction in the use of physical intervention. Young people increasingly exercise their rights to make choices, such as with food, the places they go out to or what they do in the home. As a result, young people experience less frustration and anxiety.

Systems to review the effectiveness of any serious incident, including restraints, are in place. They include opportunities for all staff to reflect on their practice and the triggers that escalated the behaviours. This occurs within 24 hours of any incident occurring and ensures that staff promptly adapt strategies in place to try to avert future incidents.

Young people are appropriately informed about the service the home provides. Good use of pictures and preferred communication methods ensure no young person is without information. This includes the contact details of people outside of the home who they can approach if they have any concerns about the care provided.

All staff either hold, or are working towards, a childcare qualification. Senior staff who deputise in the Registered Manager's absence have appropriate experience to fulfil the responsibilities of their role. Regular professional supervision occurs and the management team has an open door policy so that staff feel free to present specific issues and seek guidance when needed. This practice positively impacts on opportunities for reflective practice and guidance.

The organisation has appointed a new representative to undertake quality monitoring of the home. New processes introduced, along with the manager's own monthly monitoring of documentation, effectively monitor the operation of the home, the quality of care and outcomes for young people. This is achieved in partnership with young people, their families and the professionals who support them. The environment is one that nurtures, supports and encourages young people to achieve their potential. The home shows it has the capacity to continue to improve.

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*.