

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC358046
Inspection date	22/03/2012
Inspector	Jo Stephenson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	08/12/2011
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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 is a privately run school that is a registered children's home as it accommodates young people for more than 295 days a year. The school is part of a larger organisation. It accommodates up to 38 young people and specialises in the care and support of young people with autism, Asperger's syndrome, or communication difficulties.

Progress

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

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the provision since the last inspection in December 2011. The service has made good progress and the two recommendations previously made have been addressed. Outcomes for young people have improved because of the emphasis on the quality of care. For example, the multi-disciplinary team approach of staff results in a stable environment for young people.

Young people enjoy exceptional relationships with staff and are safe from significant harm. Staff are able to recognise potential triggers for young people and identify early interventions to reduce the risk of harm or increased anxiety. Consequently, young people are safe and feel safe. The residential provision has an ethos of mutual respect and as a result, young people experience improved confidence and self-esteem.

Staff follow a robust consultation process with young people. Their views are actively sought on all aspects of their care. Young people participate in regular meetings and discuss a varied range of topics. The complaints procedure has been improved to detail actions taken and responses given to young people. This means that young people feel able to raise their concerns and are confident that these are suitably addressed.

Incidents of concern have reduced and young people are encouraged to comment on any consequences and sanctions they receive. Subsequently, they feel their views are considered. Individual behaviour plans identify specific triggers for young people and strategies to minimise risks. These are effectively addressed in key work sessions and this means that young people are encouraged to reflect on their behaviour.

Staff ensure that missing from home and general risk assessments are in place to help protect young people. These are individualised and incorporate education activities and leisure activities. As a result, young people benefit from an inclusive and coherent approach to their care.

Care staff work in close partnership with teaching staff and education support staff. Integrated team meetings include occupational therapists and educational psychologists. An inclusive approach is taken to supporting young people to recognise their goals and work to achieve these. Consequently, young people benefit from a holistic programme of social and emotional development.

The Registered Manager ensures that monitoring systems are in place to assess the quality of care for young people and identify areas for improvement. The development plan is detailed and reviewed monthly. Practice changes are discussed during staff meetings and training sessions. Staff state that they feel supported and are motivated concerning the development of the home.

Following on from the last inspection, records concerning young people emphasise positive behaviour and achievement. The protocol for the use of physical intervention has been amended and staff now provide young people with the opportunity to be examined by a medical practitioner should they wish. This means that young people are provided with additional safeguards for their health and that they live in an effectively-managed home.