

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC358046
Inspection date	25/02/2014
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	17/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately run service is registered as a children's home which is part of a residential school. It provides care and accommodation for up to 38 young people with autism, Asperger's syndrome, or communication difficulties.

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**.

At the last inspection in July 2013, the overall effectiveness rating for the home was judged to be good.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection. A focus on improvement and development in the home ensure that young people benefit from improved outcomes and good quality of care.

Two recommendations were made at the previous inspection. These have been fully addressed.

The Registered Manager has ensured that children's individual case records are maintained in a format, which is clear and easily understood. This means records provide an accurate reflection of individual needs. Consequently this enables staff to deliver appropriate care.

The home has demonstrated a creative response to the recommendation that staff support young people to keep a record of their time in the home. This means that

young people benefit from having memorabilia, which provides a permanent record of significant events, individuals and achievements during their time in the home.

The home continues to demonstrate a very good quality of care. All young people benefit from consistent support to engage in education that meets their individual needs and preferences. Health needs are promoted and young people benefit from healthy lifestyles. Young people enjoy diverse and stimulating activities of their choosing. For example, young people have recently benefited from a Skiing trip to Italy. This means young people are able to explore their own potential and extend their horizons.

A highly skilled and dedicated staff team look after young people. They are committed to the development and welfare of each young person. Staff develop because of good quality supervision and participation in a wide-ranging training programme. Young people progress because of care provided from a knowledgeable and experienced staff team.

Measures to improve the maintenance and decoration of the home are routinely undertaken. Some areas of the home are homely, comfortable and personalised according to preferences of the young people. However, other areas are in need of additional work to improve the overall appearance of the home. Examples include large fire safety signs, corridors and stairways, which have a well-worn and an institutionalised appearance. Additionally there is a lack of personalisation in some communal areas.

The leadership and management of this home is highly effective. The previous Registered Manager has been promoted and remains as part of the senior management team. A deputy manager has been successfully interviewed for the post of Registered Manager. This ensures continuity in the development of the home and promotes consistency. The management team have detailed knowledge of the needs of young people and the staff teams. This leadership provides a rigorous framework, which ensures the efficient operation of all aspects of the home. Young people benefit from the consistency that the staff and management provide.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated. Avoidable hazards are removed as is consistent with a domestic setting. Risk reduction does not lead to an institutionalised feel. (NMS 10.3)

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*.