

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC358046
Inspection date	29/01/2013
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	09/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately run service 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 2012, the overall effectiveness rating for the home was judged to be good. One requirement and one recommendation were set at the last inspection.

The requirement to ensure that all young people have a placement plan prior to their admission to the home has been very well addressed. Placement planning is made in advance of the admission of any young person. In addition, care planning is highly individualised and includes the full participation of the young person alongside social, education and therapeutic professionals.

The recommendation to include details of how to access children's rights services and independent advocacy are now included in all children's guides, with additional information displayed throughout the home.

The management of this home is highly effective. The Registered Manager has excellent organisational skills. This ensures that all management tasks are thoroughly and systematically undertaken. She has a detailed knowledge of the young people

and her staff teams. This leadership provides a meticulous framework, which ensures the efficient operation of all aspects of the home. Young people benefit from the consistency which the staff and management provide.

The effective operation of the home is further strengthened with rigorous monitoring arrangements. Extensive and detailed quality assurance systems are undertaken internally and by external visitors. The monitoring visits inform managers of potential shortfalls and ensure high standards of care maintained.

Young people are looked after by staff who are proactive, well trained and committed to the development and welfare of each young person. Staff express a high level of confidence and satisfaction in their support, training and development. Staff develop because of good quality supervision and participation in regular training. The management team enable staff to progress and enhance their professional development. Young people progress because of care provided from a professional and committed staff team.

The home continues to demonstrate good standards in the quality of care provided to the young people. All young people are supported to engage in education which meets their individual needs and preferences. Health care needs are met and young people benefit from healthy lifestyles. Young people enjoy stimulating and frequent activities of their choosing; they participate in the community and receive good preparation for moving to alternative provision or independence.

The home promotes good communication with young people. Young people attend and contribute to their own meetings and to the routine of the home. They have access to advocacy services; their own telephone and in accessing appropriate information detailing their rights. This means young people can exercise their views in regards to any potential concerns or complaints they may have.

Young people are safe and feel safe. Risk assessments are current, safeguarding guidance and procedures are fully integrated and recruitment and selection of staff is rigorous. Behaviour management is responsive to the individual needs of young people. This means effective strategies for young people are promoted and young people are protected.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection. The quality of care remains good and outcomes for young people remain at an exceptional level. No statutory requirements or recommendations are made as a result of this visit.

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*.