

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC372504
Inspection date	07/02/2014
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	26/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is part of a privately owned residential school for children and young people with learning difficulties. The service can accommodate up to 55 children and young people.

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 September 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good. Two requirements and one recommendation were made because of the last inspection. Since that time, the children's home has demonstrated good progress, with all shortfalls appropriately addressed.

The manager has addressed the requirement to submit an up to date copy of the Statement of Purpose to Ofsted. This means the regulator is clear about the aims and objectives of the home.

Internal monitoring and quality assurance processes have now been improved, by seeking the views and ensuring consultation with young people, staff, parents and stakeholders. This means the development of the home is influenced by the views of others.

Physical intervention is a method of behaviour management used as a last resort to prevent injury to young people and staff. Improvements to the monitoring of patterns and trends in the use of physical interventions includes detailed analysis of

the use and effectiveness of each incident. This has led to a reduction in the overall use of physical interventions. Consequently more effective behaviour management strategies are utilised, which means young people benefit from less directive strategies.

Young people receive high levels of support and guidance to attend and achieve at school. They participate in a wide range of activities. Young people have their health promoted and are taught how to keep themselves healthy. They receive support from a committed, knowledgeable and experienced staff team. Consequently young people benefit from high standards of care.

Young people are wherever possible, actively involved in planning and reviewing their care. The home provides clear, individualised and well-planned care, taking into account the complex needs of the young people. This means young people exercise participate in their daily care and can express preferences and choice.

The promotion of equality and diversity is a key strength of this home. Young people have their diverse cultural, religious and identity needs met by an enthusiastic staff team. Young people attend community and religious events. This means they participate in community involvement and exercise citizenship. As a result, their knowledge of religions and cultures is further developed.

Safeguarding is of paramount importance in this home. Where potential concerns about the safety of a young person are identified, the home works with local safeguarding teams and Local Authority Designated officer to ensure the protection of vulnerable young people. This ensures multi-agency collaboration that provides effective protection to young people from potential or actual harm. All notifications are carried out as required and appropriate action is taken to follow procedures and protect young people.

The Registered Manager is highly knowledgeable, dedicated and experienced. She provides strong leadership to ensure the delivery of consistently high standards of care. The manager continually strives to improve outcomes for the young people. The implementation of rigorous and effective monitoring processes provides continuous quality assurance. The maintenance of good standards and focus for further improvement are a key feature of this service.

This inspection has identified that the home demonstrates a strong capacity for continuing improvement based on its track record and performance since the last inspection.

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*.