

Children's home URN 135442

Independent special school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Chanan Tomlin

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Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.^{1,2}

The inspection was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

This inspection is of a children's home, owned and managed by Green Corns Ltd (Continuum Group). It provides full-time education and care for up to two students between the ages of 10 and 18 years who are unable to attend mainstream school because of severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties or because they are a threat to others. At the time of this monitoring inspection there was one Year 7 student and one Year 11 student on roll. There are no students with a statement of special educational needs.

Context of the inspection

The school was first inspected in June 2008 and the provision was judged to be inadequate, with failings with regard to a number of the standards. The school produced an action plan in August 2008. This action plan was accepted and resulted in the school's first monitoring visit in May 2009. The school was found to have failings in respect of a significant number of regulations and it produced another action plan in July 2009. This action plan was evaluated in December 2009 and was found to be inadequate. The purpose of the present monitoring visit was to evaluate the school's progress in implementing its action plan. A social care inspector inspected the home in November 2010, when it was judged to be making good provision.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The previous monitoring visit in May 2009 identified that attendance was poor and that, when students did attend classes, they were uninterested and not engaged in the lessons. This resulted in students not having adequate experiences in all of the areas of learning, not experiencing a full-time education and in them not making sufficient progress. A cross-curricular approach to teaching was not effective in covering all the required areas of experience. Planning for personal, social,

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8

citizenship and health education (PSCHE) and information and communication technology (ICT) was inadequate. There was no systematic arrangement of rewards and sanctions within the school, linked to the home, to promote attendance, participation and good behaviour. The behavioural management system was not applied consistently. Students were not provided with an adequate range of vocational opportunities. Students were seen smoking on site and not enough was being done by the school to help these students stop smoking. The fire risk assessment did not include a reference to the dangers posed by students potentially smoking in the building; combustible material stored next to a boiler in the garage posed a significant danger. The front door and garage were unlocked throughout the day, posing a security risk.

The school's action plan set out general strategies and a range of specific actions to remedy each of the failings. These included measures to improve attendance through motivating students with incentives, through better tracking of progress and through closer co-operation between the school and home. The action plan also set out to improve and enrich the curriculum especially with regard to PSCHE and ICT, to improve long- and short-term planning and to provide students with vocational opportunities. It was identified that teachers needed to improve their teaching skills through extra training in order to make lessons more interesting. The action plan also set out to provide students with 'healthy lifestyle' plans, to ensure that risk assessments were comprehensive and to ensure that the building was always safe and secure.

As a result of implementing the plan, the quality of provision has been improved. Attendance is now good and students have good attitudes to learning. They participate in lessons and are generally engaged. As a result, they receive a full-time education. The cross-curricular approach to planning and teaching has been replaced with a subject-based approach. As a result, students have meaningful experiences in all of the required areas of learning and make at least satisfactory progress. Planning for all subjects, including PSCHE and ICT, is satisfactory. Students are able to attend the local college for vocational courses.

The school has a reward system linking home and school that encourages students to behave and participate in lessons. They respond well to the incentives provided. The behaviour management system is now applied consistently between home and school. Behaviour is good; students are friendly, polite and courteous. The school tries hard to encourage students who smoke to stop smoking. The fire risk assessment now includes all of the necessary details; the garage is safe and contains no combustible materials. Security is now satisfactory.

The school has made good progress in implementing its action plan and now meets all regulatory requirements.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Children's home		
Date school opened	November 2007		
Age range of pupils	10-18 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 2	Girls: 0	Total: 2
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 2	Girls: 0	Total: 2
Annual fees (day pupils)	£34,800		
Email address	angela.norris-heyas@greencorns.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mrs A Norris-Heyes		
Proprietor	Continuum Group		