

## Inspection report for Children's Home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC032154
<b>Inspection date</b>	07/03/2011
<b>Inspector</b>	Michael McCleave
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Random

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	09/11/2010
--------------------------------	------------

---

© Crown copyright 2011

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: [www.tso.co.uk/bookshop](http://www.tso.co.uk/bookshop)

## 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.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

## The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

## **Service information**

### **Brief description of the service**

This home is part of a special school, which provides education and residential care for children with autism and complex learning and social difficulties. These include challenging behaviours. As an independent school providing over 295 days of residential care per year, the whole school is registered as a children's home.

The school offers residential provision on two sites for up to 30 children. One house at the school offers care for 52 weeks per year to 16 young people. The other house is some distance away and provides care for up to 14 young people from Monday to Friday during school term time.

Each children's home is set within a local community. All have access to transport provided by the school as well as public transport, local shops and amenities.

### **Summary**

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

This interim inspection looked at the progress the home has made with the recommendations made at the last inspection and how well the national minimum standards for staying safe are being met. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic well-being and organisation were not looked at during this inspection.

The young people live in a safe environment and staff are fully aware of their responsibilities to ensure that the young people are protected from any harm. The welfare of the young people is taken seriously by staff and there are appropriate policies and procedures in place to enable staff to take the required actions as required. There are very good communication resources at the home to enable staff to identify if complaints or other concerns require further investigation. The safety of the young people is further enhanced by the robust recruitment procedures in place.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the manager was asked to seek guidance from the fire authority on the actions to take if a young person refused to leave the building during an emergency, update the Statement of Purpose to reflect the current temporary management arrangements and to ensure that all records are appropriately signed by the person making the entry. The manager has consulted with the fire officer and appropriate procedures are now in place. The Statement of Purpose now includes the current temporary management arrangements and all staff have been reminded to sign records.

## **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is not judged.

## **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The dignity of the young people is upheld by staff who have a clear understanding of the importance of respecting their rights to privacy. Although the young people are closely monitored to ensure their safety, staff remain at a discreet distance during moments when quiet private time is required. Confidentiality is appropriately practised at the home. There is an efficient administration system in operation and all records are stored securely.

The home has a stock of child-friendly pictures and symbols in various formats. This enables staff to identify if there are any concerns and enables the young people to indicate if they are unhappy or worried. By going through a series of pictures, staff can determine if a complaint should be pursued. They would contact parents for consultation. This is good practice and demonstrates a commitment to equality and diversity.

Staff are well trained in child protection awareness and they can use a variety of communication aids to determine if there are any concerns in respect of safeguarding. Training in child protection awareness is mandatory for all care staff. There is a strong commitment to safeguarding the young people and this is reflected in the robust training programme. There are appropriate procedures in place to inform staff of the actions to take where there are suspicions or concerns of abuse. Staff have a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and are aware of the procedures to follow. These measures promote the safety of the young people.

Bullying and young people going absent without authority are not significant issues at the home due to the high staff ratio. Where it is evident that some form of bullying may be an issue between young people, staff carry out a risk assessment and determine a strategy to manage these situations. This is good practice and promotes the safety and well-being of the young people.

The relationship between the young people and staff is very good and there is a positive atmosphere at the home. Restraint is rarely used and staff generally use gentle holds to guide a young person away from a difficult or confrontational situation. All staff have been trained in behaviour management techniques. Parents are consulted at the commencement of the placement to inform them of the type of restraint that may be used on their child. This home does not use full restraint techniques. This is very good practice.

The safety of the young people and staff is enhanced through the measures in place to ensure that the building is a safe environment. Fire evacuation drills are carried out at regular intervals and all appliances have been checked to ensure these are in working order. The home has good quality doors and locks to prevent unauthorised entry and all windows have restrictors. The outside play areas have a safe security fence and the grounds are covered in soft materials to protect the young people from injury.

The young people are further safeguarded through the recruitment and selection procedures in place ensuring that only suitably checked staff are appointed to work at the home.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is not judged.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is not judged.

### **Achieving economic wellbeing**

The provision is not judged.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is not judged.