

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC055780
<b>Inspection date</b>	26/03/2012
<b>Inspector</b>	Sonya Robinson
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	12/07/2011
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## 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 (March 2011)*.

## The inspection judgements and what they mean

<b>Good progress</b>	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.
<b>Satisfactory progress</b>	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.
<b>Inadequate progress</b>	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.

## Service information

### Brief description of the service

All young people considered for placement experience autistic spectrum disorder with associated communication and sensory impairment and possible learning disability. The home is owned by a national organisation. Most young people who access this service access the organisation's school.

Placements in the home are generally provided for school terms only, with accommodation being provided on weekdays and weekends. Periods of short break care are agreed on an individual basis.

### Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **satisfactory** progress.

At the last full inspection in July 2011 the home was judged as good overall. On that inspection Ofsted asked the provider to make improvements to ensure that there are suitable arrangements in place for medication; that when a child is restrained the details of methods used to try and avoid this are recorded and to ensure that the children's guide is updated. Additionally, entries in records should be legible, some general household maintenance issues were highlighted and the home was to ensure that staff had access to the placing authorities safeguarding procedures.

Since the last inspection, the systems in place for medication have been reviewed to ensure the safe keeping and administration of medication. Documentation regarding the restraint of a child now includes the details required and the children's guide has been updated. The children's guide is pictorial, so that it is in a child-friendly format and accessible to children and young people.

The home now has a good maintenance plan in place and since the last inspection the home has attended to the highlighted repairs and has continued to involve children in choosing various colour schemes and furnishings particularly within their own bedrooms.

Staff have access to appropriate safeguarding procedures, although not all staff have received training in this area, particularly staff who have transferred from other parts of the organisation. Entries in records did show improvement, but this has been inconsistent. Further, not all staff have up to date training in this area. Despite the home undertaking training since the last inspection. There have been some staff who have left since the last inspection. The home has recruited for some posts but there are shortfalls in the management structure. This has resulted in some slowed progress in areas highlighted in this inspection.

Children and young people observed with staff were positive and engaging. The home was busy and noisy but all seemed happy with their routine and doing their own things. For example, some young people went to their bedroom for time alone. Some children went to play in the garden on the extensive play equipment, it was a warm and sunny day and other young people were observed sitting quietly with a drink.

Notifications of significant events have been received from the home as appropriate and relevant agencies have been involved as necessary. However, children's records have not been kept up to date with the detail that would be expected within the regulations regarding children's homes and staff supervision has recently lapsed.

The home has improved in other areas including; children and young people actively participating within the review of their care and they do this by choosing photographs to add to an audio disc that is shared at their review. This details, through pictures, what children and young people think about their time in this service. There are also continued regular children's meetings to obtain their views and they are consulted about the daily issues of the home, such as menus and activities. Monitoring by the independent visitor and Registered Manager has greatly increased in terms of being more thorough and detailed since the last inspection. They are aware and are taking active steps to address the issues raised at this inspection. Therefore the home has made satisfactory progress since the last inspection.

## Areas for improvement

### Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
27 (2001)	ensure that all staff receive appropriate training, such as safeguarding and report writing (Regulation 27(4)(a))	31/05/2012
25 (2001)	ensure there is a sufficient number of suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons working at the children's home (Regulation 25 (1) (b))	31/05/2012
28 (2001)	ensure all children's records contain all of the information specified in Schedule 3 and that they are up to date and signed and dated by the author of each written entry (Regulation 28 and Schedule 3)	30/04/2012
27 (2001)	ensure that each staff member receives appropriate supervision. (Regulation 27 (4) (a))	30/04/2012

## Recommendations

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

- ensure that entries in records are legible and clearly expressed (NMS 22.4)