

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035500
Inspection date	02/10/2012
Inspector	Michelle Oxley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit

Date of last inspection	13/03/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: 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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The unit is registered as a secure children's home, operated by the local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to provide secure care and accommodation. Education is provided on site in dedicated school facilities. The unit provides secure accommodation for up to 24 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**.

The service has made good progress with some positive developments identified since the last inspection. Two recommendations were made at the last visit and both have been suitably addressed.

A recommendation made at the last inspection regarding training in autism for the staff team has now been met. The training course for staff is designed and delivered by a relevant professional who possesses the suitable technical knowledge in this area of expertise. The course has been undertaken by the majority of the staff team; assisting them to understand and better support young people who have autistic spectrum related needs.

Following the last inspection, the home's approach around aspects of behaviour management has benefited from some development as recommended. A more defined approach toward using restorative justice as an alternative to sanctions is now in place. The approach is more creative and there is good evidence demonstrating that the staff team are giving increased consideration to the choices

they make around managing each young person's behaviour.

The effectiveness of behaviour management techniques are considered in a multi-disciplinary weekly meeting and recorded on the minutes. An aim of the meeting is to identify the approach most suited to each young person. Discussions with young people confirm that they have a very good understanding of the methods of sanctions used. They know what to expect, one young person said 'I was asked to write a letter of apology... it made me think more about what I'd done'. The consequence and effectiveness of disciplinary measures are recorded elsewhere and are not recorded in the restraint and sanctions log. The impact of this omission on young people is minimal, as outcomes in relation to behaviour management are good.

The approach to safeguarding young people continues to develop positively. Training has been extended to administrative staff and the practice of monitoring restraints using closed circuit television has extended to include a broader range of staff. This serves to promote the practice of peer review and create a positive culture of minimal physical intervention. Young people are further protected by the unit's recruitment procedures which now include the expectations of staff in relation to online social networking sites.

Careful attention is paid to monitoring the overall performance of the unit and detailed monthly reports are created. These provide extensive statistical information and identify trends and patterns through the use of graphs and bar charts. They provide an excellent visual record of events overtime. However, they neglect to give an analysis or assessment of the unit's performance through a narrative interpretation on a six monthly basis in line with good practice. An annual written report is produced at the end of each year which assesses the year's overall performance and this is used to set out development objectives for the year ahead.

Community links have been strengthened with young people's endeavours being shared with local residents. This includes an exhibition of young people's art work at the local library and donations to the local football team; both events are mentioned in local publications. These serve to promote the positive profile of the unit and instil a sense of pride in the personal achievements for young people.

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
17B (2001)	ensure that the registered person within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's	03/12/2012

	home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose of which shall include, the effectiveness and the consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 17B(3)(f))	
--	--	--

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the manager regularly monitors, in line with the regulations, all records kept by the home to ensure compliance with the homes policies, to identify any concerns about specific incidents and to identify patterns and trend. In particular, ensure that a written report of monitoring activities is produced every six months and sent to Ofsted. (NMS 21.2)

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)*.