

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC032154
Inspection date	24/01/2013
Inspector	Michael McCleave
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	

Date of last inspection	17/07/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

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

This home is part of a special school, which provides education and residential care for children with autism and complex learning 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. One house at the school offers care for 52 weeks per year to 16 children. It comprises four units that are all interconnected enabling the children to freely move between these to meet friends. The outside areas are equipped with modern play facilities. The children all enjoy single bedrooms with en-suite facilities.

The other house is a boarding residential provision for up to four children. This facility is open only from Monday to Friday during school term-time.

There is access to transport provided by the school as well as public transport, local shops and amenities.

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**.

There were no requirements or recommendations made at the last inspection.

This home continues to provide the children with a safe and caring environment. The recent structural changes to work patterns are now being embedded and staff

demonstrate a positive approach to making the changes work.

Relationships between the children and staff are good. There is a relaxed atmosphere at this home. It is clearly evident from the observations of the interactions between the children and staff, that children are comfortable when staff are around. The children behave appropriately and when tensions arise staff manage these situations well. Restraint is rarely used at this home and this reflects positively on staff who are skilled in de-escalation methods where the emphasis is on attempting to reduce tensions. One entry, however, indicates that staff moved a child by holding onto his clothes. This is being addressed by the manager.

Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to ensuring that the children are supported to do well educationally within their individual capabilities. For example, the staff maintain positive links with the school in order to ensure information about the children is shared. This cooperative approach means that young people benefit from the strong support from teachers and staff at the children's home. A positive feature is the commitment to providing the children with an education if they cannot attend the school. This is an excellent example of cooperation to ensure that children continue to progress educationally.

The home is emerging from a period of change and staff have ensured that the good care of the children has not been affected.

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*.