

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC055780
Inspection date	13/02/2013
Inspector	Sonya Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	06/11/2012
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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. Young people who access this service access the organisation's school.

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**.

At the last full inspection in November 2012, the home was judged as good. At that inspection, Ofsted asked the provider to make improvements in some areas.

The provider was asked to ensure that all staff receive appropriate training and supervision with particular reference to bank staff. Additionally, they were asked to ensure that young people have access to a range of educational facilities including internet access; household maintenance issues were highlighted and that all existing care staff should hold an appropriate qualification in childcare.

Since the last inspection, bank staff have undertaken additional training and have received one-to-one professional supervision with managers. Young people have access to laptops and some now have their own computer 'tablets'. Most of these electronic devices are connected to this organisations main server which provides safeguards for the young people to play, learn and aid communication.

Young people live in a suitably designed and comfortable house in a quiet residential

neighbourhood. It is handy for the shops, parks and community amenities. Many areas of the home have been redecorated since the last inspection. The previously highlighted repairs have been completed; this has also included some new curtains and pictures throughout. Young people have also been consulted regarding colours, bedding, pictures and so on, within their own bedrooms. These are all different and they reflect their interests, hobbies and tolerances. However, 'over excited' water play by some young people has now caused uneven floor covering, within and around the first floor shower room.

Since the last inspection staff are making good progress with their studies in order to obtain a relevant qualification in childcare, although there are still a number of staff undertaking this.

Young people are making progress in all areas of their lives and for some this is very significant. For example, using the toilet independently, using transport and the reduction of repetitive behaviour to enable young people to be more socially acceptable. This also increases their dignity and privacy along with being able to enjoy more community based activities. Some young people do at times struggle to manage their feelings and behaviour, but are more able to overcome the problems they are facing. Staff sensitively help them to understand more about the world about them and engage them in positive experiences. Young people, participate in the decisions that affect their lives. They make day-to-day choices about what they have to eat and what they do in their leisure time. Young people are also supported to understand and accept that their wishes cannot always be met.

The home has sound systems to review the quality of care each month. The Registered Manager consistently monitors the running of the home and identifies areas for improvement. Action is taken to ensure the home meets the young people's needs and promotes their welfare. A representative on behalf of the responsible individual, also visits the home every month to monitor the quality of care. Records and documentation have been reviewed since the last inspection. Young people's records are maintained and provide insight into young people's time in the home, including individualised plans for each person.

As a result of all of the above the home is judged to have made good progress since the last inspection.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated, in particular the flooring in and around the first floor shower room (NMS 10.3)
- ensure that all existing care staff, have attained a minimum level 3 qualification.

This was previously the National Vocational Qualification in Caring for Children and Young People and from September 2010 is the Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma. (NMS 18.5)

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*.