

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC069336
Inspection date	13/03/2014
Inspector	Wendy Anderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	09/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This school provides care and accommodation for up to 76 young people with autistic spectrum disorder and learning disabilities. It operates as an independent co-educational residential special school which also provides accommodation for a number of young people receiving up to 52 weeks placements and is therefore registered as a children's home.

Students are accommodated in nine on-site residential houses and one off-site house in a neighbouring village. The school is set around a restored country house, within acres of parkland.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

The overall rating for this service at its last full inspection on 9 October 2013 was good. At this inspection two requirement and three recommendations were made. All of these requirements and recommendations have been met.

The home has developed a comprehensive recording system for any complaints they may receive. These records now robustly include what action the home has taken to investigate the complaint, its outcome and the complaints response to the outcome. Also lesson learnt from complaint is evaluated and used to improve practice. The complaint procedure is also provided in a symbol-supported text format for the young people.

A new format had been developed to record incidents of young people who go missing from the home. This format is robust and will provide the home with effective and evaluative information should such an incident occur. There have been no incidents of young people going missing since the last inspection.

A significant number of the staff team are now enrolled in level 3 Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma with new staff being enrolled as soon as is practical. Recruitment is an on-going process at the home.

The requirement made about the homes restraint records relating to them being legible and comprehensive has been met. This includes the recording of the duration of the actual restraint itself and not the duration of the entire incidents which had happened in the past. This has enhance the evaluation and monitoring of these records. The home is currently developing on electronic system which will capture all the required information but this has yet to be implemented.

The home has updated its statement of purpose and the young person guide now contains the correct contact numbers for Ofsted and HMCI.

The home manages the complex health needs of young people have well. This includes working with parents and external professionals. This work is supported by robust records. The home is currently incorporating the information held by the Nursing team at the home into young people's individual files. This will provided a cohesive record of the young people's medical needs.

There has been one potential safeguarding issue since the last inspection. This was appropriately reported to Local Authority Designated Officer and the home followed their directions. Clear records were kept of work undertaken. This included additional supervision and training for those. This related to staff not following the home procedures in reporting a bruise. The robust and prompt action taken by the home ensures the young people safety.

The home is working on enhancing their monitoring systems. Meetings have been held with the Regulation 33 visitor and training for them is scheduled. Work is also being done with parents and social workers on developing systems for obtaining their views more robustly. Information obtained from this monitoring is will be used to inform the homes future development.

Young people's individual plans, such as personal hygiene plans are no longer displayed in communal areas. The home is currently updating young people's individual plans with their placing authorities. These now clearly identify where the use of door viewing panels is needed to keep young people safe. This work enhances young people right to privacy.

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 homes policy on staff supervision includes the timescales such supervision should take place. (NMS19)
- ensure all staff attain a minimum level 3 qualification. (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*.