

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC396813
Inspection date	06/03/2014
Inspector	Diane Thackrah
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	09/12/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This setting is owned by a charity and is registered to accommodate 50 children and young people, with physical disabilities, complex health needs and learning disabilities. On site is a non-maintained special school catering for children and young people aged three to 19 years with complex special needs. A team of nurses, therapists and specialists, funded by the Primary Care Trust, are also based on site and provide medical support.

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 home was last inspected in December 2013 where it was judged as being good. No recommendations or requirements were set at the inspection. The home continues to provide good quality care to young people that meets their needs and supports them to make good progress.

Maintenance and environmental issues continue to be well handled. A number of areas have been improved and now provide a more pleasant and comfortable environment for young people to live in. A new pathway has been put in place which ensures that young people using wheelchairs have a more comfortable, smooth & level path to travel from the school building to the bungalows. A gate with an intercom has been fitted to the school entrance to provide increased security. Plans have been drawn up to introduce an outside sensory area for young people to enjoy. Additional touch screen computers have been provided in each of the bungalows. This ensures that more young people can use these together to play or

do homework. Fire safety continues to be given high priority in the school. Fire drills occur regularly involving staff and young people in each of the bungalows. There is fire alarm testing and an emergency plan in place with clear guidelines for fire wardens. Emergency lighting checks are monthly with records held. Fire blankets and extinguishers are noted in each of the bungalows.

Staffing arrangements have been reviewed and adjusted in order to improve communication for parents and social workers with the school. A new placement manager has been appointed in order to ensure that social workers and parents now have a clear point of contact to approach with any staffing issues. The impact of this system is unknown yet as it is not yet embedded within school procedures, however, it is intended to ensure that stakeholders receive a consistent and quality service from the school. The arrangements for safer staff recruitment and keeping young people safe from harmful adults have been improved since the last inspection. The majority of staff members who have any involvement in safe recruitment have attended training in safer recruitment in education. There is a greater knowledge in school now of safe staff recruitment which protects young people's well-being. Robust recruitment checks have been carried out on new staff members employed and this promotes young people's well-being.

There continue to be strong arrangements for consultation with young people and their parents. There are regular meetings being held in individual bungalows where there is meaningful consultation with young people. These meetings are coordinated by a dedicated staff member who ensures that the views of young people are taken forward. For example, one young person asked for a drum to be purchased at the last meeting and this has been done. Another young person expressed an interest in using the water bed more often and this has been arranged. The school council continues to run effectively and young people continue to use the suggestion boxes. As a result, their views are valued.

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*.