

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC394025
Inspector	Kenneth Smith
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Sarah Prevett
Date of last inspection	03/02/2014

Inspection date	09/10/2014
Previous inspection	good progress
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged outstanding at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

The children's home is within a residential special school for children with complex care needs, usually including epilepsy. The site includes eight residential units for children (alongside young adult provision that many move on to). Historically four of the units were part of the children's home and four were not. This is now being integrated into a single children's home comprising all eight units. This visit also considered the variation application, specifically the suitability of the environment and management arrangements for the four houses new to this registration.

Knowledgeable, caring and well-trained staff continue to provide a very high quality of planned care to young people. The organisation has excellent healthcare support on site, and this has systematically skilled the staff to have confidence and real understanding in their management of young people's health. This has centred upon effective intervention and control for young people with epilepsy, the vast majority here, but has also included a roll out of training in autism which is also highly relevant to the current needs. The raised awareness that this two day course and corresponding interest has prompted is resulting in imaginative engagement with young people who make progress in communication and expanding their involvement in activities.

Health care plans are a real strength in the setting. However, it was noted that the use of audio monitoring of young people in their rooms, a key feature of their timely intervention with epilepsy, was being used for two young people for whom there was no clear rationale.

Care planning is child and young person centred and staff get to know children individual, and were observed to have developed excellent relationships through which to guide and assist young people. For example, one young person was seen to be agitated and upset and staff showed concern to him whilst giving space and

time to avoid unnecessary confrontation, although the young person was frustrated and uncooperative.

Premises are, across the site, in good order and suitable to meet young people's needs. Clear timescales were given to the inspector to improve items such as the absence of sufficient storage space and the need for completion of a bathroom refurbishment in 'school' residential house. The external areas are mostly attractive and reasonably maintained to afford young people opportunity to play or be outdoors. A former basketball court has become overgrown and is currently off-limits to young people. The manager and chief executive agreed that this will be addressed within the current development plan.

Leaders and managers in the setting are constantly evaluating the service and evolving it in the light of this. For example, a recent development in recording ensures that all seizures are recorded electronically with sufficient detail for specialists to analyse. This in turn promotes strong and timely multidisciplinary action in the most pressing situations.

Safeguarding in the home is robust. The house managers keep aware of all concerns about young people, however small. This promotes a culture of concern and strategy to help a young person experiencing problems. The home operates transparently, and notifications to outside agencies have been effectively managed. The investigation of areas requiring improvement, for example medication administration errors, has been thorough and remedial action robust.

Leaders and managers monitor practice regularly and effectively. Regulation 33 reports include actions with timescales which challenge managers to stay on top of their responsibilities. The managers Regulation 34 reports culminate in an action plan for the setting which is well thought through, practical including timescales and evidences effective strategic planning by the organisation.

Information about this children's home

The home can accommodate up to 26 Young people in four separate houses based on the same site. It is in the process of increasing these numbers to include four further houses currently operating as a residential special school. The home caters for young people with a variety of disabilities, primarily epilepsy, autism and learning difficulties. The home is operated by a registered charity.

The site comprises a residential special school with some 38 week and some 52 week students, an adult college and some houses exclusively for 18 - 25 year olds which are separately regulated by the Care Quality Commission.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/02/2014	Interim	good progress
30/08/2013	Full	outstanding
20/03/2013	Interim	good progress
27/09/2012	Full	good

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

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
22 (2001)	ensure that electronic monitoring devices are only used for the purpose of promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children; in particular turn off night-time listening devices where there is no medical or other reason to deploy them. (Regulation 22(1))	30/11/2014

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information 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 main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.