

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC032154
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Registered person	National Autistic Society
Registered person address	National Autistic Society 391-393 City Road LONDON EC1V 1NG
Responsible individual	Helen Evers
Registered manager	Lynne Taylor
Date of last inspection	07/08/2014

Inspection date	14/01/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action since the last inspection.

This inspection

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

Young people have continued to make progress since the last inspection. Their health needs are well met. They eat healthily and are supported to exercise. Young people enjoy swimming and walking and also spending time in the garden which has specialist play equipment. They attend routine health appointments to ensure that their general health is monitored. Staff work closely with other professionals employed by the organisation, such as the speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and psychologist. This ensures that young people have additional input to meet their complex needs.

Young people attend school every day. Consequently they are able to make progress in relation to their individual educational goals. Their general learning and development is supported by involvement in activities such as trips to local museums and other places of interest. A number of young people enjoy playing electronic games and using the home's computer. There are appropriate protections on the computer systems to safeguard vulnerable young people. The majority of young people only use games that are age appropriate. However, in line with their local authority care plan, a young person has been allowed to use a game that is for individuals over 18. This means that they have access to material that is not suitable for their age.

Young people are safe. They are cared for by staff who have developed an excellent knowledge of their individual needs and vulnerabilities. Young people do not go missing from the home because they are appropriately supervised and supported. Staff manage challenging behaviour effectively and consequently there are few incidents that result in restraint. The manager monitors records of all incidents closely to ensure that young people's welfare is promoted. Staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding issues and understand the home's safeguarding protocol.

Consequently, concerns are managed very effectively in order to protect young people.

Young people move into the home in a planned way. When a young person is referred to the home, their needs are fully considered by care and education managers to ensure that these can be met both in the home and in the school. Visits are made to the family and they and the young person are also supported to visit the home before the young person is admitted.

Young people are well supported to prepare for adult life and to move on from the home in a planned way. They are helped to develop self-care skills at a pace that is appropriate to their individual and specific needs. Managers and staff work closely with placing authorities to ensure that pathway plans are put in place at an early stage. Young people and their families are fully involved in the planning process. These arrangements ensure that young people and their families are supported at a time of transition.

The home is managed effectively. Robust monitoring arrangements ensure that there is good oversight of the care given to young people and the progress they make. The manager has a clear development plan in place which is kept under review.

Three of the four recommendations that were made at the last inspection are met. The home's whistle blowing policy has been reviewed and discussed with staff during supervision and in team meetings. At this inspection staff demonstrated a good understanding of the process. They confirmed that they would be confident about using it and clear that any issues they raised would be addressed. Carpets in lounges have been renewed and at this inspection, all areas of the home were well maintained. Staff supervision records now reflect the detail of discussions that have taken place. Staff report that they have regular supervision meetings and they feel supervision is helpful to their work with young people.

One recommendation is not fully met. Although some senior care workers have been enrolled on management courses, team leaders have not yet been registered for management qualifications. Team leaders are responsible for the management of a team of staff on a day-to-day basis and they have not had specific management training to support them in this aspect of their role. The deputy manager confirmed during the inspection that this training is currently being sourced.

One requirement and one recommendation have been made as a result of this inspection. These relate to young people's use of electronic games that are not age appropriate and management training for team leaders.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is part of a residential special school. It is an autism specific service which provides education and residential care for children and young people. Children may also have other associated learning difficulties and challenging behaviour.

The school has a residential provision on two sites. This home offers 52 week provision for up to 12 young people.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/08/2014	Full	good
10/02/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
25/09/2013	Full	good
24/01/2013	Interim	good progress

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
11 (2001)	ensure that the home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there. Specifically that young people do not have access to electronic games that are not deemed appropriate for their age (Regulation 11 (1) (a))	20/02/2015

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take

account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that all staff are equipped with the skills required to meet the needs of the children and the purpose of the setting. Specifically that all staff who have management and supervisory responsibilities are suitably trained. (NMS 18.1)

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.