

## Children's homes - interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>01/12/2015</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC032154</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Residential special school</b>
<b>Registered person</b>	<b>National Autistic Society</b>
<b>Registered person address</b>	<b>National Autistic Society, 391-393 City Road, LONDON, EC1V 1NG</b>

<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Helen Evers</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Lynne Taylor</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Simon Morley</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>01/12/2015</b>
<b>Previous inspection judgement</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>This inspection</b>	
<p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b></p> <p>This home was judged <b>Outstanding</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>sustained effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>Young people continue to have very good experiences. This starts with thorough assessments and well planned admissions, through to high levels of support with transitions to adult services.</p> <p>Young people benefit from a structured, consistent environment that focusses on their individual needs. This helps reduce their anxiety, facilitating development of individual talents as they feel safe in an environment that is calm and predictable.</p> <p>The positive impact on young people's emotional well-being consequently reduces levels of challenging behaviour. When there are incidents, these are responded to sensitively and appropriately by staff in line with specific, individual care plans. Any use of physical intervention as a response is reviewed and overseen by the provider to ensure practice is safe and proportionate.</p> <p>Staff are positive about young people's ability to achieve, based on carefully selected targets. They strive to understand experiences from the point of view of the young people, so that support is sensitive to their needs. There is a strong focus on social skills such as shopping, communication and accessing health services like the dentist which causes significant anxiety for some of the young people.</p> <p>Young people equally develop self-help skills such as tying shoe laces, shaving, cooking and house work. They enjoy a variety of leisure activities, including swimming, the cinema, trips to places of interest and learn to ride bikes.</p> <p>Given the complex needs of young people with autism, they make good progress across all areas of their development. This enhances their prospects and opportunities for a successful transition into adulthood. One parent commented that the home is 'fantastic and life changing'.</p> <p>All concerns raised about care practice are responded to swiftly by the manager with young people's safety and well-being a priority. Subsequent alterations to care practice are not always underpinned with timely amendments to risk assessments</p>	

and care plans. Staff are aware of these changes but out of date records can compromise their efforts.

One of the two recommendations made at the last inspection has been met. The manager has worked closely with local safeguarding agencies, improving procedures and communication about missing from home. There have been no such incidents as young people are kept very safe. The quality of the independent visitor's reports is still not consistently of good enough. The provider has plans to improve this in 2016 by recruiting a new person to complete the visits and reports.

The manager monitors the quality of care but her six monthly written reviews do not focus sufficiently on the experiences of young people, their outcomes and progress. This compromises the ability to use these audit tools to drive continuous improvement. There has been an initial start to track young people's progress more effectively, which needs more time to demonstrate its impact.

The manager and staff work closely and effectively with parents, other professionals and agencies. There are strong links with the school young people attend. This multi-agency approach promotes the holistic individual needs of young people, including their, communication, health, education and behaviour. Parents commented very positively about the quality of care, 'I am pleased with X's development, X is always happy and staff always make us welcome.'

The way feedback about young people is given to parents has improved as a result of a parent's suggestion.

## Information about this children's home

The children's home is registered to provide accommodation and care for up to 12 children with learning difficulties. This is a service that is for children with autism. It is part of a larger residential special school. The school provides education on site for the children from this home and who live in other residential care premises. Children in the home may have other associated difficulties such as sensory impairment and physical disabilities. The home is owned and managed by a charitable organisation.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/07/2015	Full	Outstanding
14/01/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
07/08/2014	Full	Good
10/02/2014	Interim	Satisfactory progress

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

### 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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due Date
<p>12: The protection of children standard</p> <p>12. In order to meet the protection of children standard, in particular reference to keeping care plans and risk assessments up to date, the registered person must ensure-</p> <p>(b) that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm.</p>	31/12/2015

### Recommendations

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

- The registered person should undertake a review that focuses on the quality of care provided by the home, the experiences of children living there and the impact the care is having on outcomes and improvements for the children. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 64, paragraph 15.2)
- The independent person must make a rigorous assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the home's care (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 65, paragraph 15.5).

## **What the inspection judgements mean**

At the interim inspection 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**

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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