<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Unique reference number</strong></th>
<th>SC420032</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inspection date</strong></td>
<td>14/03/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inspector</strong></td>
<td>Lucy Ansell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of inspection</strong></td>
<td>Interim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provision subtype</strong></td>
<td>Children’s home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Date of last inspection** | 05/09/2011        |
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 (March 2011)*.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good progress</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory progress</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate progress</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service information

Brief description of the service

This is an extended residential provision situated within a school to provide consistency in children's care, communication and behaviour management over a 52 week period for children with learning difficulties. The children's home is able to provide eight places for both sexes from ages 11 to 17 years.

The premises are appropriate for use and, with the addition of the school and its grounds, all the young people have room to freely move around and find an area they wish to be in.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making satisfactory progress.

The full inspection was completed in September 2011, and two requirements and six recommendations were made. Since this inspection both requirements have been fully met and progress has been made to ensure all the recommendations are on the way to being fully met. Two recommendations are repeated at this inspection to allow more time for them to be fully met. Two further recommendations are also made to improve practice with regard to sanctions and in gaining the views of stakeholders.

The young people now benefit from better monitoring of matters as set out in Schedule 6; via Regulation 34 reports being written and sent in to Ofsted at appropriate intervals. These reports focus on quality assurance and report on positive outcomes achieved by the young people. This ensures rigorous monitoring of all incidents, better recording of outcomes achieved and overall enhances all aspects of the service that is provided.

The physical restraint log books are now compliant with the new Children's Homes Regulations. The manager and head of care ensure staff complete comprehensive recordings in the log books which are monitored well to protect the welfare and safety of the young people. However, staff need to ensure any sanctions given to young people are clear, reasonable and fair and are understood by all staff and children.

Young people are further protected from harm by the managers of the home having undertaken training on safeguarding children with a disability. This training is hoped to be cascaded to all staff so all young people are protected from significant harm; and staff are aware of appropriate safe care practices specifically on issues affecting disabled children.
All key policies and procedures are in the process of becoming service specific, so they relate to the children's home rather than the school. However, this is a long process with them all having to be ratified by school governors and the local authority. This recommendation has been repeated to allow the home more time to complete the process in a robust and comprehensive manner.

Young people now live in a home where their peer group is appropriate, and the home has sufficient staff and young people to make it homely and welcoming. Staff and the placing authority are clear about the aims and objectives of the home and what services and facilities it can provide. This has meant that young people placed there are suitable for the children's home and this ensures a clarity and separation between school and the home.

Young people receive a good quality service from staff who are supported and appropriately supervised to fulfil their roles. Supervision workshops were set up for all senior staff to ensure consistency and so all staff receive regular supervision from appropriately qualified and experienced staff.

There are clear and effective procedures for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home. Managers are monitoring records and can quickly identify patterns and trends, along with the new format and experience of the Regulation 34 visitor this ensures that issues are quickly dealt with for the safety and welfare of the young people. However, consultation needs to be more embedded in the quality assurance processes, whilst the home has lots of conversations with parents and social workers these need to be formalised.

The registered person has not yet completed a written development plan which can be reviewed annually. This recommendation has been repeated.

**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 registered person has a written development plan reviewed annually (NMS 15.2)
- ensure all policies and procedures for the home are service specific and provide clear and effective procedures for the home (NMS 21.1)
- ensure there are clear and effective procedures for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home, in particular the quality of the provision and views of stakeholders (NMS 21.1)
- ensure any sanctions given to young people are clear, reasonable and fair and are understood by all staff and children. (NMS 3.8)