



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru  
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

**Annual monitoring inspection report on  
Teresa House**

**Date of inspection: October 2017**

**by**

**Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education  
and Training in Wales**

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## Context

Teresa House is one of nine independent special schools that are operated by Care4Children. The company is based in Stockport and the other schools are situated in northern England. Pupils who attend Teresa House are all residents in the linked children's home that shares the site.

The school is situated in a rural setting alongside the north Wales coast. There is a classroom that is separate from the children's home. The school uses facilities in the main house for a few learning activities, for example cooking.

The lead teacher has been in post since the school was established in 2015.

An education director oversees the work of all the Care4Children schools.

When the school first opened, the intention was to offer 12 week placements. Now, pupils remain at the school for 18 to 24 months. As a result of this change, the school is developing a new curriculum.

## Main findings

### Strengths

The school supports the pupils' social and emotional needs extremely well through a therapeutic curriculum. As a result, pupils gain in confidence and self-esteem. They are able to talk about and discuss their feelings with adults as well as their peers.

The school has a clear vision, which is shared by all staff across the education and care setting.

The school benefits from being part of a wider organisation. The company education director is actively involved in the strategic running of the school, and is extremely supportive. Where improvements are required, he ensures that prompt action is taken.

The school works effectively with a college of further education, to enhance the learning experiences of the pupils and prepare them for the future. Communication with the college is regular and effective. Pupils benefit from a valuable transition period, including a taster day.

Pupils' attendance is very good, with very few unauthorised absences.

The accommodation is well maintained and provides a suitable learning environment. Resources meet the needs of individual pupils well.

The school carries out a useful baseline assessment of all pupils, in relation to literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT). This information is used to identify gaps in pupils' learning and to inform planning.

The school makes effective use of external specialists to deliver aspects of the curriculum, for example a makeup artist and a beauty therapist.

### **Areas for development**

The school offers a range of interesting topics, for example healthy lifestyles, economic wellbeing and citizenship. However, it does not offer a wide enough range of academic and vocational courses or qualifications that are relevant to the next stage of pupils' learning.

At times, staff do not give pupils enough time to reflect before answering questions. This limits their development as independent learners.

Self-evaluation and school improvement processes are underdeveloped. As a result, staff do not have a shared understanding of the strengths of the school and the priorities for improvement.

### **Recommendations**

R1 Increase the range of academic and vocational courses and qualifications that are offered to pupils, and that are relevant to the next stage of their learning.

R2 Give pupils enough time to reflect when asked questions or given tasks to do.

R3 Ensure that self-evaluation processes clearly identify strengths and areas for development and inform planning.

**Progress in addressing recommendations from previous note of visit or inspection report**

N/A

**Compliance with the standards for registration**

**Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

**Standard 2: The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

**Standard 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

**Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

**Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 5.

**Standard 6: The provision of information**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

**Standard 7: The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

## Recommendation regarding registration

When considering this school's registration the National Assembly for Wales may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Inspectors' judgements on this annual monitoring inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

## School information

<b>School</b>	Teresa House
<b>School number</b>	6616033
<b>Purpose of visit</b>	Annual monitoring inspection
<b>Date of visit</b>	11/10/2017
<b>Proprietor</b>	Care4Children
<b>Staff</b>	1 lead teacher, 1 teaching assistant
<b>Number of pupils</b>	4
<b>Provision</b>	Day provision linked to children's home
<b>Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school</b>	Social and emotional difficulties
<b>Last Section 163 inspection</b>	Insert text
<b>Last annual monitoring inspection</b>	14/03/2016
<b>Last CSSIW inspection</b>	17/05/2016