



ACADEMY ADVISOR – Gary Smith visit to Lexden Springs Residential

Date of Visit:

14 January 2026

Specific focus/strand:

Strand 1-Statement of Purpose, Principles and Practice.

Brief summary of the visit: what you looked at and who you met with.

Reviewed revised statement of purpose and previous reports from independent visitor.
Discussed both documents with Lucy, Head of residential and Luke, deputy head at the school and DSL.

What are the specific noteworthy strengths?

Statement of purpose has been updated in particular looking at ethos and referral process. Referrals are now also made by staff members looking at key EHCP targets.

Are there any areas for development to report on?

School website needs to be revamped and developed facilitating transitions and information for parents.

Any 'stand-out' moments?

In discussion with Lucy, she explained that the changed profile means that they have a group who have never stayed away from home before. These pupils now look forward to staying.

Are the safeguarding arrangements and welfare of the students being met?

Lucy and Luke have weekly meetings and planning, and information is comprehensive and coherent.
This is also monitored termly by the independent visitor.

Are all students needs well met and are they happy and thriving?

Having read the latest reports, it seems best to reflect the views of a very happy parent. "I have never had a moment when I was worried about her care."
"Staff communication is first class, they are amazing and really know the children so well, they use that knowledge to provide strong care that has helped at home a great deal."

Is the Leadership and Management delivery of the provision effective?

Given the evidence I have seen I feel that the leadership is exemplary. Lucy continues to be determined to improve on a daily basis.

Any notes or additional comments?

Links are now firmly established with our other residential provision at Southview. Leaders have their own mutual support group. Social visits are now planned. Lucy is also investigating adding pets to the environment to increase the feel of 'home'.