



# Report of an inspection of a Designated Centre for Disabilities (Children).

## Issued by the Chief Inspector

Name of designated centre:	Brabazon
Name of provider:	Redwood Neurobehavioural Services Unlimited Company
Address of centre:	Louth
Type of inspection:	Short Notice Announced
Date of inspection:	27 January 2026
Centre ID:	OSV-0009009
Fieldwork ID:	MON-0047428

## About the designated centre

The following information has been submitted by the registered provider and describes the service they provide.

Brabazon provides a residential service for 2 children male/female between the age of 6-18 years diagnosed with Intellectual Disability, Physical and or Sensory Disabilities. This may include children presenting with behaviours of concern and /or mental health difficulties. Brabazon is situated in a coastal area within walking distance to local shops and amenities. It also is situated with easy access to large town located in Co. Louth.

**The following information outlines some additional data on this centre.**

Number of residents on the date of inspection:	2
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This inspection was carried out to assess compliance with the Health Act 2007 (as amended), the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013, and the Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013 (as amended). To prepare for this inspection the inspector of social services (**hereafter referred to as inspectors**) reviewed all information about this centre. This included any previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the provider or person in charge and other unsolicited information since the last inspection.

As part of our inspection, where possible, we:

- speak with residents and the people who visit them to find out their experience of the service,
- talk with staff and management to find out how they plan, deliver and monitor the care and support services that are provided to people who live in the centre,
- observe practice and daily life to see if it reflects what people tell us,
- review documents to see if appropriate records are kept and that they reflect practice and what people tell us.

In order to summarise our inspection findings and to describe how well a service is doing, we group and report on the regulations under two dimensions of:

### **1. Capacity and capability of the service:**

This section describes the leadership and management of the centre and how effective it is in ensuring that a good quality and safe service is being provided. It outlines how people who work in the centre are recruited and trained and whether there are appropriate systems and processes in place to underpin the safe delivery and oversight of the service.

### **2. Quality and safety of the service:**

This section describes the care and support people receive and if it was of a good quality and ensured people were safe. It includes information about the care and supports available for people and the environment in which they live.

A full list of all regulations and the dimension they are reported under can be seen in Appendix 1.

**This inspection was carried out during the following times:**

Date	Times of Inspection	Inspector	Role
Tuesday 27 January 2026	10:30hrs to 15:00hrs	Miranda Tully	Lead

## What residents told us and what inspectors observed

This was a short notice announced inspection, completed by one inspector over one day. This was the first inspection of the centre since two children had been admitted. The purpose of the inspection was to monitor the centres levels of compliance with regulations and standards. The inspector reviewed 12 regulations over the course of the inspection and found that all regulations reviewed were fully compliant.

The inspector had the opportunity to meet with both children on the day of the inspection. Based on what the inspector observed, the children were busy and active. They were attending school, engaging in meaningful activities and keeping in contact with the important people in their lives.

On arrival to the centre the inspector observed that the house was clean, warm, well maintained and welcoming. One young person was in the centre when the inspector arrived, this was as a result of the suspension of transport due to adverse weather on the day of the inspection. The young person was seen moving around the centre and using their device. Staff reported the young person was happy to have a day off and this would be their preferred way to spend a day. Later in the day, when weather permitted staff and the young person went for a local walk. The second young person returned from school early on the day of the inspection, on their return they went to their room and could be heard laughing and engaging positively with staff. Although the children did not directly engage with the inspector, they appeared in good form and content in the company and presence of staff. Staff were also observed to be kind, caring and patient in their interactions with the children.

A comprehensive pre-admission review and assessment were completed, supporting the childrens' positive outcomes. The provider had ensured that safe staffing levels had been maintained. The person in charge and senior management identified that the staffing allocation had been reassessed based on the now assessed needs of the children following their successful transition to the service. Staffing in the centre was being reduced on a phased basis.

In the next two sections of the report, the findings of this inspection will be presented in relation to the governance and management arrangements and how they impacted on the quality and safety of service being delivered.

## Capacity and capability

This was the first inspection in this centre and was completed to monitor the provider's compliance with the regulations.

Overall, the inspector found that there was a clearly defined management structure in the centre. The person in charge was also responsible for one other centre supported by an assistant director of services. The person in charge and an assistant director of services for the centre facilitated the inspection.

The person in charge was familiar with the childrens' needs and could clearly articulate individual health and social care needs on the day of the inspection.

On the day of inspection, there were appropriate staffing levels in place to meet the assessed needs of the children. From a review of the roster, there was an established staff team in place.

There were systems in place for the training and development of the staff team, staff spoken with throughout the inspection had the necessary skills and competency to care for the children.

### Regulation 15: Staffing

A review of rosters between 15/12/2025 and 11/1/2026 indicated that there were sufficient staff on duty to meet the needs of the children as described by the statement of purpose and the assessed needs of the children.

Three staff worked during the day and two staff worked each night. The assistant director advised the inspector that a review of the childrens' staffing needs had taken place and a phased reduction in staffing was planned. This was following the successful transition of the children to the centre and the wish to further enhance the independence of the children living in the centre.

On the day of the inspection, the inspector met with staff members on duty in addition to the person in charge . All staff were seen to be knowledgeable in their roles and the children appeared content in their presence.

Judgment: Compliant

### Regulation 16: Training and staff development

There were systems in place to facilitate and monitor staff training and development. From reviewing the records of staff members, the inspector found that they were provided with training to ensure they had the necessary skills to respond

to the needs of the children. The staff team had up-to-date training in areas including:

- fire safety
- safe administration of medication
- childrens first
- communication skills
- first aid
- supporting people with autism
- human rights
- food safety.

The inspector found that the training which had been completed by the staff members was focused on ensuring they had the appropriate skills to support the children.

Judgment: Compliant

### Regulation 23: Governance and management

There were clear lines of authority and accountability in this service and the centre was resourced to ensure the delivery of care and support in line with the statement of purpose.

There was an experienced and qualified person in charge managing the day-to-day operations of the centre. They were supported in their role by an experienced and qualified assistant director of services. A monthly governance meeting was held which included the review of risk management, health and safety, actions arising and staffing matters.

The provider also had systems in place to monitor and audit the service. The first six-monthly unannounced audit was completed the day prior to the inspection, actions identified were either actioned or in progress on the day of inspection. The annual review of the service was not due for completion.

In addition, the person in charge conducted a suite of audits each month in the centre and, any actions identified from those audits were addressed promptly.

An example of audits included:

- fire
- medication
- individual plans
- protection
- finance
- communication.

Judgment: Compliant

### Regulation 24: Admissions and contract for the provision of services

A detailed transition plan was developed for each child prior to admission which included visits with family members and a pre admission checklist. The inspector reviewed this information and found that the provider and those involved had planned for an effective admission for each child. The children had been prepared for the transition, and a review post transition was completed.

A contract of care was signed by the person in charge and the childrens' representatives.

Judgment: Compliant

### Regulation 3: Statement of purpose

The statement of purpose was reviewed by the inspector and found to meet the requirements of the regulations.

It detailed the aim and objectives of the service and the facilities to be provided to the children.

The person in charge was aware of their legal remit to review and update the statement of purpose on an annual basis (or sooner) as required by the regulations.

Judgment: Compliant

### Regulation 31: Notification of incidents

A record was maintained of all incidents occurring in the centre and the person in charge was aware of the requirement to notify specific incidents to the Chief Inspector of Social Services in line with the requirement of the regulations.

The inspector had completed a review of notifications received in advance of this inspection and also completed a review of the provider's accident, incident and near miss records and found that all incidents that required notification had been completed in line with the Regulation.

Judgment: Compliant

## Quality and safety

Overall the inspector found that the centre provided a comfortable home that was in a good state of repair both internally and externally. The house was suitably designed and equipped to support the children. It had a homely feel and was clean and warm.

Staff spoken with described how the children led busy lives and enjoyed engaging in a range of activities suited to their ages and abilities. The inspector noted that the service was implementing care based on the childrens' areas of interest, they were supported to attend school and staff were encouraging their inclusion and participation in community based activities. They were also supported to maintain very regular contact with their family members.

There were systems in place for the assessment, management and ongoing review of risks in the designated centre. Staff demonstrated a good understanding of the main risks prevalent in the centre and how to manage these risks appropriately.

Overall, the children in the centre were observed to be safe and well cared for.

## Regulation 10: Communication

The children living in this centre were supported to communicate in accordance with their individual needs and preferences. Preferred methods of communication were clearly documented within their personal care plans and communication passports.

They had access to a range of communication resources including portable devices, televisions and radios.

Staff were observed to demonstrate awareness of, and respect, for each child's preferred communication methods.

Staff members spoken with were able to clearly discuss and describe the childrens communication plans with the inspector.

Judgment: Compliant

## Regulation 17: Premises

The centre had been decorated to ensure it was homely in presentation, warm and well maintained. The inspector completed a walk around of the premises and found that there was adequate communal and private space for children.

The staff team had supported children to display their personal items and in ensuring that their personal possessions and pictures were available to them. This included their favourite cartoon characters. Both children had their own bedroom which were decorated to reflect their individual tastes.

To the rear of the house there was an enclosed garden which had play equipment such as a trampoline.

Overall the premises were observed to be well maintained on the day of this inspection and appropriately equipped/resourced for the children

Judgment: Compliant

## Regulation 26: Risk management procedures

There were systems in place for the assessment, management and ongoing review of risks in the designated centre. The children had a number of individual risk assessments on file so as to promote their overall safety and well-being, where required.

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of the main risks prevalent in the centre and how to manage these risks appropriately.

Risk was found to be responded to and well managed in this centre. Incidents and accidents were being logged and reported through an on-line system which allowed for information sharing and oversight. A review of staff meeting minutes indicated that incidents and trends were discussed to promote learning.

The inspector reviewed a sample of incidents to date. The provider was responsive and reviewed control measures to mitigate risk.

Judgment: Compliant

## Regulation 28: Fire precautions

There were systems in place for fire safety management. All staff had received suitable training in fire prevention and emergency procedures. The centre had suitable fire safety equipment in place, including emergency lighting, a fire alarm and fire extinguishers which were serviced as required. There were adequate means of escape and escape routes were clear from obstruction.

In addition, there was evidence of regular fire evacuation drills taking place in the centre. The inspector reviewed the documented fire drills and noted that the children could be safely evacuated.

Judgment: Compliant

### Regulation 5: Individual assessment and personal plan

Both pre and post assessment of need was completed for the children in the centre. Assessment information informed plans which guided staff practice. The plans reviewed were informative and practical, providing clear guidance on how best to support each child.

The inspector observed that staff members were familiar with the content of these plans and demonstrated a strong understanding of each child's needs. Staff were seen responding appropriately to the children and were able to articulate their support strategies confidently during discussions with the inspector. These findings indicate that the centre was delivering individualised and responsive care, underpinned by effective planning and staff awareness.

The children in this centre had access to facilities for education, learning and recreational activities. Opportunities were provided for each child to participate in activities in accordance with their interests, capacities and needs. Each child had opportunities for play time in the centre and for activities in the community such as local playgrounds and walks on the beach.

Goals had been developed for each and included for example:

- getting to know staff
- personal care
- becoming independent in taking snacks
- outdoor activities.

Judgment: Compliant

### Regulation 8: Protection

The children in the centre were observed to be safe and well cared for. The provider had systems in place for the detection, management and reporting of safeguarding concerns. The provider had an up to date children's safeguarding statement.

Staff had completed training in relation to safeguarding and protection, and those who spoke with the inspector were knowledgeable in relation to their roles and responsibilities.

The inspector reviewed intimate care plans and found they contained sufficient detail in order to guide staff and safe guard children.

Judgment: Compliant

## Appendix 1 - Full list of regulations considered under each dimension

This inspection was carried out to assess compliance with the Health Act 2007 (as amended), the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013, and the Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and the regulations considered on this inspection were:

Regulation Title	Judgment
<b>Capacity and capability</b>	
Regulation 15: Staffing	Compliant
Regulation 16: Training and staff development	Compliant
Regulation 23: Governance and management	Compliant
Regulation 24: Admissions and contract for the provision of services	Compliant
Regulation 3: Statement of purpose	Compliant
Regulation 31: Notification of incidents	Compliant
<b>Quality and safety</b>	
Regulation 10: Communication	Compliant
Regulation 17: Premises	Compliant
Regulation 26: Risk management procedures	Compliant
Regulation 28: Fire precautions	Compliant
Regulation 5: Individual assessment and personal plan	Compliant
Regulation 8: Protection	Compliant