

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062079
Inspection date	28/03/2012
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	27/10/2011
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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

Good progress	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.
Satisfactory progress	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.
Inadequate progress	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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This home forms part of the services provided by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust provides holistic services for children with multiple disabilities and complex health needs and those with acquired brain injury who require rehabilitation.

The school provides 52-week placements for learners and is, therefore, registered as a children's home. This is in addition to being registered with the Department for Education as a non-maintained school for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties with an age range between five to 25 years.

The school has 44 educational placements. The registered children's home accommodates 33 pupils, in single or twin bedrooms. The boarding accommodation comprises three separate houses. At the time of this inspection there were 28 residential learners, of which 10 were over the age of 18 years old.

Progress

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

For the purpose of this report children and young people will be referred to as learners, the preferred choice of the setting, staff and parents.

At the last full inspection carried out in October 2011 the overall judgement for the setting was outstanding.

There were no requirements or recommendations made at the last inspection and none made as a result of this inspection.

The Trust and its senior management team continue to have the focus and drive for continuous improvement. Targets for development are ambitious, challenging and address the changing needs of learners. Managers clearly understand the setting's strengths and weaknesses as highlighted in their development plan for 2011-2014 and are working closely to ensure they are addressed.

The school is going through a period of change with the deputy head teacher leaving in December 2011 and the head teacher is retiring at the end of the summer term 2012. Very suitable recruitment and cover procedures have been put in place to address both these situations, to ensure there is no negative impact on the learners. The head of care continues to operate in an effective and efficient manner, overseeing the residential units.

The numerous areas that have been developed since the last inspection and are due

to be implemented in the very near future include; a better standard of monthly regulation reports enabling staff to respond to areas highlighted in reports; the development of a Palliative care group headed by a specialist Palliative care nurse; the introduction of an electronic staff rostering system; implementation of the finger print recognition security system; and the completion of the external review of the catering arrangements.

The development of the Palliative care group has resulted in a protocol being written that will enable consistency in provision and highlight professional boundaries for staff, and inform parents so they know what to expect.

The introduction of the fingerprint recognition system due to commence installation the week following this visit forms part of the Trust's push on security.

The external review of the catering provision has taken place and the results are currently being fed back to the Trust's Board. Recommendations have been made and will be put into place and will improve the provision overall.

Learners are provided with high levels of protection which take into account their very high levels of vulnerability due to their poor communication skills and complex health needs. Appropriately trained staff take the lead in any safeguarding concerns and continue to be fully supported by the on site social workers.

The health and safety of the learners, family and carers, staff and buildings is taken seriously with comprehensive health and safety procedures in place. Robust auditing continues to be undertaken at regular intervals with continued excellent results. Learners are cared for by staff who know what to do if there is a fire and are fully informed of the learner's individual fire risk assessments.

Overall the learners continue to benefit from a service that is very well suited to meet their complex needs and a service where much laughter and fun is had.