

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062079
Inspection date	06/02/2014
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Date of last inspection	23/10/2013
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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 residential accommodation comprises three separate houses. At the time of this inspection there were 31 residential learners, of which 12 were over the age of 19 years old and 19 are under the age of 19 years old.

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.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in October 2013, the home was judged to be outstanding overall. Two recommendations were made. Progress has been made in recruiting an intensive interaction specialist who will assist the person undertaking monthly visits, in line with The Children's Homes Regulations. This will enable the service to gain feedback from the young people about their experiences at the setting. The specialist will have knowledge and experience of the young people's highly complex

communication needs. There is now consistency across all three houses in the recording of the effectiveness of fire evacuation drills taking place. Fire evacuation is a regular agenda item on the setting's health and safety committee meetings; this enables consistency and safety to be monitored across the site.

There has been a significant increase in the number of notifications received since the last inspection. This is due to the increased complex and specialist nursing needs that children and young people are presenting with. All notifications show that the children receive appropriate professional input by the on-site doctor and are referred to specialist hospital units if indicated. There are regular trans-disciplinary meetings which include deciding on the level of support needed for both the children and their families. This is an area of considerable strength that the service offers. As a result of the increased complex nursing needs being delivered, the setting is currently working with the Care Quality Commission regarding joint registration with Ofsted. Great importance continues to be placed on child protection and safeguarding. There are experienced and knowledgeable social workers on site who provide expertise and training to staff. The service's current child protection and safeguarding policy continues to be up to date and in line with local area procedures.

One of the three houses is currently being reorganised to provide more space for children, and is a more interactive environment. The overall site is large and many of the roads and pathways have been re-tarmacked, with additions such as zebra crossings and pictorial signs. These enhance the safety of children and adults when moving from one area to another across the site.

Overall the setting continues to move forward with a new organisation strategy which is currently being delivered to all staff. The chief executive and senior managers have an ambitious plan to move the service forward. This includes a rebuild of the on-site school that children attend. The plan also highlights the improvements to be made in increasing life sensory skills and sensory technology for children. Other areas of good progress include; more integrated working across the Trust with a newly recruited head of nurse training who is taking the lead in this area. This will ensure all nurses continue to develop their skills in line with current guidelines, expertise from other departments can be used and that there is consistency of care delivery across the service. Technological development is an area the service is moving forward with quickly. The service continues to work collaboratively with experts in the field so that technology such as Eye-Gaze and software, specific for the children and young people at this service, is introduced. This service continues to operate at an extremely high level with recognition nationally and internationally of the expertise it offers and delivers. The service is managed by a competent Registered Manager who has a wealth of knowledge and experience. He works extremely closely with the head teacher of the school and all the many other departments found on the site. This includes speech and language specialists, physiotherapists, doctors and social workers.

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*.