

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	16/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC035241
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school
Registered person	Doncaster Deaf Trust
Registered person address	Doncaster College for the Deaf, Leger Way, DONCASTER, South Yorkshire, DN2 6AY

Responsible individual	Anne Roberts
Registered manager	Catherine Warner
Inspector	Jamie Richardson

Inspection date	16/03/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection This home was judged Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness. The completion of all requirements and recommendations set at last inspection has resulted in significant improvements to the functioning of this home. A new management structure provides a delegated leader on every shift. Consequently, staff feel well supported. Additionally it allows the registered manager increased time to monitor practice and the progress of young people. The registered manager continually strives to build on the strengths of this home. She now has capacity to focus on additional developments. External quality assurance reports contribute to oversight of practice and now express an opinion in respect of the safety and wellbeing of young people. Young people receive excellent support in preparation for moving on to the next stage of their lives. Planning meetings and ongoing consultation with new placements supports effective sharing of information. This ensures that new staff have a good understanding of young people's needs right from the start. Picture books and gifts help young people to reflect and remember their time in this home. Young people's education remains highly prioritised. Consequently, school attendance is high. Staff are committed to supporting young people with homework. The continual reinforcement of individual's targets between home and school helps young people to learn and achieve. Staff provide an exceptional standard of care, which meets individual's unique, needs. The specialist knowledge of staff provides a world where young people can communicate. For some, this is the only place others can understand them. As a result, individuals enjoy their time here. They continue to develop socially, emotionally and academically. One young person commented 'I really enjoy it here. I like staff and activities. I like it when I can go out with staff for a treat'. The individual time young people spend with staff provides them with increased opportunity to share their wishes and feelings. This further develops trusting relationships and promotes their emotional wellbeing. One social worker commented, 'He has been observed to be comfortable in the presence of staff and	

says he is able to speak to key workers if he has any worries.'

Staff work hard to promote young people's physical and emotional health. Staff support young people to attend all routine health appointments. Physical activities such as swimming and football help young people to stay physically fit and promotes healthy life style choices in the future.

Re-decoration of bedrooms and updated décor in the upstairs areas of the home now provides a personalised and cared for feel to the home. Young people are proud of their choice of bedding and pictures. One young person commented 'I like my bedroom I have new pictures I like.'

Ongoing training in relation to safeguarding young people provides staff with the knowledge required to respond to any issues, which may arise. Positive relationships, effective communication and consistent routines and boundaries provided by staff promote good standards of behaviour. Consequently, incidents of challenging behaviour remain low and no physical intervention is required.

Excellent relationships with parents and other professionals such as schools, social workers and mental health specialists ensure a holistic approach to meeting young people's needs. One social worker commented, 'There is a close interface between residential and education staff ensuring effective communication.' Another Social worker commented, 'They have promoted his emotional wellbeing through positive engagement with him and relevant professionals when required.'

No requirements or recommendations are set at this inspection.

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a charitable trust and is registered to accommodate seven children who have a sensory impairment.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/10/2015	Full	Good
26/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
14/01/2015	Full	Good
07/01/2014	Interim	Good progress

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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