

SC035518

Registered provider: Seashell Trust

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to nine children with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and/or sensory impairment.

Children live across four buildings on a site that includes a school and college. Most children attend the on-site school.

The inspection only considered the social care provision at the setting.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since April 2025.

Inspection dates: 24 to 26 June 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account

requires improvement to be good

How well children and young people are helped and protected

requires improvement to be good

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

requires improvement to be good

The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 11 March 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection:

In September 2024, an urgent condition was placed on the home to reduce the number of children living at the home to nine.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/03/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/08/2024	Full	Inadequate
11/07/2023	Full	Good
15/11/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

There are currently nine children living across four houses. Since the last inspection, no children have moved out of the homes or into the homes. Two of the children did not have the required documentation in line with statutory requirements.

Furthermore, not all court-directed orders are up to date. The manager has been consulting with local authorities to try to address these issues.

Each child has an individual health action plan. The manager has introduced health and well-being meetings to ensure that children's health is prioritised. However, some plans lack clarity around children's physiotherapy treatment. As a result, staff do not always complete all exercises with children that they need to improve their health.

Staff know the children well and place them at the centre of their practice. Staff communicate with children depending on their individual needs and adopt a range of methods, including pictorial exchange systems, Makaton and British Sign Language. As a result, children have made progress with their communication. For one child, social stories have been used to help them understand the sequence of their day and manage any anxieties they may have. This is supporting them to participate fully in daily life.

Children's cultural and religious needs are promoted and met. Staff ensure that food is stored and prepared in line with children's religious requirements. For example, one child has an additional kitchen in the home to ensure that there is a separate space for dishes and for staff to prepare the food in line with the child's needs.

Children are cared for affectionately by staff. Children enjoy activities in the home, but some children have limited opportunities to enjoy community-based activities. This is an area for development. A recommendation has been made to address this.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Children's risks are understood, and plans provide staff with up-to-date information and guidance on how to manage and mitigate risks. Staff know when and how to respond to any concerns.

Despite leaders and managers completing a premises audit, locks on internal doors remain in place in some of the houses. Additionally, when locks are used for safeguarding purposes, they are not risk assessed to ensure that they are necessary and proportionate for the children. The use of locks prevents some children from accessing all areas of the home.

Incidents in the home are managed well. Staff manage children's behaviour appropriately. They understand and recognise when children are anxious and upset. Recently, staff have worked collaboratively with the positive behaviour support team to understand one child's behaviours and implement strategies to support them. As a result, restraint is only used as a last resort.

Medication systems in the home have improved, and there has been a significant reduction in medication errors. When errors have occurred, action has been taken to ensure the staff were retrained and competencies were reassessed. However, not all staff involved took part in a reflective session following one medication error. This is a missed opportunity for managers to review systems further and improve practice.

Recruitment procedures and robust checks are safe and effective. All staff are checked and vetted before starting work. These checks ensure that only suitable adults are employed to work with children in the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

Since the last inspection, the manager has registered and there is a new responsible individual. Staff are positive about the changes and recent improvements and say they enjoy working in the home. Some staff spoke about their plans to leave changing as a result of the management support they now receive.

Management oversight is in place and identifies areas for improvements. However, the manager has failed to identify shortfalls in the electronic recording system. As a result, some of the home's records were missing.

There is a more stable staff team that has started to build positive relationships with the children. However, not all staff have received training in the provision of personal care and safeguarding children with disabilities. This means children are not supported by suitably skilled staff to help them manage their complex needs.

Overall, feedback from parents was positive. One parent said, '[Name of child] no longer has to fit into our world, he has his own world, and they ensure his needs are met.'

Feedback from professionals was positive. They say that communication from managers and staff is effective and there are consistent staff who are familiar with children's needs. One professional said, 'There has been a marked improvement in staff abilities.'

Rotas are planned to ensure that sufficient staff are available. However, the manager does not always update the rota to ensure that it reflects which staff have worked at the home each day.

Staff benefit from regular, reflective and clinical supervision that supports them to improve their practice. Team meetings are well attended and cover a wide range of topics relevant to children's needs. Good communication systems are in place, with daily handovers ensuring that staff are up to date about children's plans and routines.

Managers are aware of the home's strengths and areas for development, and the home's development plan is reviewed regularly. The leadership team appreciates the impact of external monitoring, which is helping it make positive changes.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to— achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 10 (1)(a) (2)(a)(i)) In particular, the manager must ensure that plans provide clarity around children's physiotherapy regime and that staff complete the range of exercises that children need. This requirement has been restated.	8 August 2025
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(h))	8 August 2025

In particular, the manager must ensure that all staff have the relevant training to meet the children's needs. Ensure that monitoring and reviewing systems are in place to support staff learning and practice.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose; that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care in a way that is consistent with arrangements agreed with the child's placing authority; that each child's relevant plans are followed. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(a)(b)(ii)(iii)(c)) In particular, the manager must ensure that they challenge the local authority when documentation in line with statutory processes and missing documents are not provided.	8 August 2025
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; is necessary and proportionate;	8 August 2025

is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe. (Regulation 21 (1)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)) In particular, the manager must ensure that all locks are removed in the home unless there are regularly reviewed risk assessments detailing how they keep children safe.	
Schedule 4 sets out the other information that the registered person must keep in relation to a children's home. The registered person must— maintain in the home the records in Schedule 4; ensure that the records are kept up to date. (Regulation 37 (1) (2)(a)(b)) In particular, the manager must ensure that rotas are accurate and reflect which staff have worked at the home each day.	8 August 2025

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that children are offered a wide range of activities, particularly outside of the home, and encouraged to take part in those activities. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 31, paragraph 6.5)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC035518

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider: Seashell Trust

Responsible individual: Deborah Gittins

Registered manager: Danielle Davenport

Inspectors

Judith Birchall, Social Care Inspector
Jennifer Quest, Social Care Inspector
Sophie Thomson, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025