

SC035518

Registered provider: Seashell Trust

Assurance 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 in three buildings on a site that includes a school and college. Most children attend the on-site school. The inspectors only inspected the social care provision on this site.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since April 2025.

There were five children living in the home at the time of the inspection. The inspectors spent time with four of the children.

Inspection date: 27 November 2025

Date of last inspection: 24 June 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Children are settled in their home. Their positive relationships with staff have been key in supporting individual progress in specific areas of their lives. Children are provided with new and fun recreational activities in the community. Their activity planners reflect their interests and hobbies.

When children move into the home, staff work collaboratively with local authorities to ensure that support and planning are effective in preparing children and their families for the move. Children have settled well together. However, there is no evidence to demonstrate how children already living in the homes have been supported to prepare for others moving in.

Children's health plans include physiotherapy plans that are clear and measurable. Children are provided with suitable daily physiotherapy exercise support from the staff team, in line with their plans. On one occasion, the staff team administered a child's medication at the incorrect time of day. Staff took guidance from the child's parent rather than following the prescribed instructions for the medication. Although this has not had an impact on the child's health, this error had not been identified by professionals working with the child.

Physical restraint is used as a last resort and for the shortest possible time. Staff use their knowledge of children to support them, to help them regulate and to settle. Locks on doors that unnecessarily restricted children's access to parts of their home have now been removed. Leaders and managers ensure that risk assessments are in place for doors that may require locking at times, and the reasons for this. However, consent for the use of a monitoring device linked to a child's health needs is yet to be sought from the child's social worker.

An isolated incident between two children was responded to promptly by staff to minimise harm to children. Leaders and managers ensured that communication with the necessary professionals and family was prompt. Risk assessments have been adapted to review strategies to mitigate risks. Consequently, there have been no further incidents between children. When a parent raised a complaint about the management of the incident, leaders and managers conducted a thorough investigation and provided clear feedback to the parent and safeguarding professionals about their findings and any lessons learned.

When there have been concerns about the safety of the premises, managers have taken prompt action to explore the concerns and to implement additional daily premises checks and monitoring by the staff team. One child's bathroom is not fit for purpose and another child's wardrobe requires fixing to the wall to make it safe. This is included in the manager's maintenance schedule and should be made a priority.

There has been a significant delay in organising refresher training for staff in relation to safeguarding children with disabilities. This was raised at the last inspection some months ago, however, has only been arranged to take place in the coming weeks. Staff also still require training and guidance on providing intimate care to boys.

Leaders and managers' oversight of incidents and records is still not effective. This relates specifically to action plans formulated when evaluating significant events not being implemented. This is a missed opportunity to promote learning and to review staff practice in supervisions and team meetings. In addition, when there was an error in the independent visitor report, there is no evidence of leaders and managers having challenged the content of the report, so that the information provided is accurate.

There have been some changes to the management team structure. This has brought positive change, organisation and support for the manager overseeing the homes. Staff say they are supported well by the current leadership team. They are provided with regular support and guidance from a management team who know the children and their needs and behaviours very well.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/06/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/03/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
28/08/2024	Full	Inadequate
11/07/2023	Full	Good

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; children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. 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)(c) (2)(a)(i))	9 January 2026
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)) 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.	9 January 2026

This requirement is restated.	
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children’s home’s overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children’s needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i))	9 January 2026
The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if— the child’s placing authority consents in writing to the monitoring or surveillance. (Regulation 24 (1)(b))	9 January 2026

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

Cheryl Field, Social Care Inspector

Jennifer Quest, Regulatory Inspection Manager

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