

1254843

Registered provider: Together for Children Sunderland Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated under trust arrangements to accommodate up to six children and young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The manager is suitably qualified and experienced for the position held.

Inspection dates: 12 to 13 November 2019

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

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 9 October 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/10/2018	Full	Outstanding
24/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/09/2017	Full	Outstanding

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
<p>The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if–</p> <p>the child's placing authority consents in writing to the monitoring or surveillance. (Regulation 24(1)(b))</p>	14/12/2019
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if–</p> <p>a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation;</p> <p>an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious;</p> <p>there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there;</p> <p>a child protection enquiry involving a child–</p> <p>is instigated; or</p> <p>concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40(4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))</p>	14/12/2019

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Young people live in a high-quality and well-equipped home, many aspects of which have been redesigned and improved. Young people have been involved in this process either through fundraising or by helping with the improvements. This involvement gives young people the opportunity to contribute to and invest in their home. As a result, incidents of damage to the home have been greatly reduced. This demonstrates that young people are learning to value and respect their home and each other.

The manager and his team have advocated effectively on behalf of young people to secure appropriate educational placements. Young people are encouraged to attend and to understand the importance of education. One young person has been supported to gain full-time employment, which is significant progress from their starting point.

Young people are offered a wide variety of activities and trips, which have included a special trip abroad. Photographs around the home capture these experiences and show that young people are given opportunities to enjoy themselves and to make positive memories. This means that young people feel valued and achieve a sense of belonging.

The manager and his team seek the involvement of health professionals so that young people's needs can be understood and responded to effectively without delay. Members of staff use the strong and positive relationships that they have with the young people to promote good health and to provide support. This means that young people develop a strong sense of how to look after their health and, as a result, they are healthy and happy. Young people say that it is the relationships with staff that they value the most.

The manager has a thoughtful approach to supporting young people to develop independent living skills. Through careful and individualised planning, young people are making progress in areas of their lives that benefit them. For some, this means managing medication, while for others it has meant building the confidence to access services in the community, such as public transport. Young people are developing the skills that they require to increase their capability, which improves self-esteem and supports their development towards adulthood.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Young people's care plans and records are kept up to date with significant information so that areas of risk are clearly identified. The staff team works closely with other agencies, sharing information so that risks can be understood and reduced. This collaborative approach is helping to protect young people from harm.

Members of staff develop good lines of communication with other professionals linked to the young people to assist in keeping them safe. When young people go missing, staff follow the home's procedures and deliver a strong message through their actions, such as persistently looking for them both to keep them safe and to show young people that

their welfare is important.

Safeguarding concerns are managed effectively and there is strong evidence that the team works proactively to help and protect young people. However, not all reportable incidents have been notified to Ofsted, although the home's own safeguarding processes have been followed and relevant others informed. This has not impacted upon young people directly but is a regulation that must be followed to allow Ofsted to maintain oversight of safeguarding practice.

Devices for surveillance of the home are used appropriately to help to promote the welfare of young people. However, consent from the young people's placing authority is required to use such devices yet this is not in place. The manager recognises the need to obtain consent and has a plan to address this shortfall.

Young people have a range of resources that contain information designed to develop their understanding of what it means to stay safe. Individualised key-work sessions take place regularly and include topics to develop young people's understanding of safety.

The relationships that young people have with the staff are a significant aspect of what is keeping them safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is highly experienced and leads a well-established and resilient team. The feedback from professionals includes that this team is relentlessly committed to young people and achieving positive outcomes for them.

The manager ensures that his staff have regular supervision. He challenges and encourages his team to reflect on their experiences so that further improvements can be made to practice and to young people's positive outcomes. Team meetings are also held regularly and offer another opportunity to discuss ideas. The manager shares information through these processes so that young people are cared for by a team that provides consistency, which helps young people to learn to respect boundaries. This improves their day-to-day experiences.

The manager has effective auditing processes in place to monitor the care that young people receive. Records capture the progress that young people are making, as well as identify areas for further work. Strategies in place to assist the team are often inclusive of input from other agencies.

The manager and his team have completed a variety of training programmes to enhance their skills and to keep up to date with issues that may affect young people. The manager looks to identify areas of need prior to young people moving into the home and puts training in place so that the team proactively meets the needs of young people.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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: 1254843

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Together for Children Sunderland Limited

Registered provider address: Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear
SR2 7DN

Responsible individual: Martin Birch

Registered manager: Graeme Conley

Inspector

Paula Kelly: social care inspector

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