

SC057718

Registered provider: The Together Trust

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The children's home is one of a number of homes operated by an independent organisation. It provides care for up to five children who may have emotional and/or social difficulties, physical disabilities or learning disabilities.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since June 2021. She is suitably qualified and experienced.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection date: 24 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 21 and 22 April 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be 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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

Children make significant progress due to the quality of care they receive. A parent said, 'The setting has brought [name of child] on in leaps and bounds. The staff have made him feel like it is his home. They all have such a lovely bond with him.'

As they approach adulthood, children are supported to move on from the home into adult provision through well-planned transitions. Staff work closely with placing authorities to ensure that proposed accommodation and support will meet each child's needs.

Detailed, child-centred pre-admission assessments support good decision-making about children moving into the home. As a result, new children settle quickly and the routines of children already living at the home are not disrupted.

Children are encouraged to develop skills and gain increased independence in line with their cognitive and physical needs. Two children who have recently come to live at the home are now able to use the toilet, are no longer using dummies to pacify themselves and can walk independently. Staff have high aspirations for children. Their nurturing and skilled care helps children to achieve.

Since the last inspection, the registered manager and senior leaders have worked hard to address the performance of some staff which had resulted in a poor safeguarding culture. Some staff have left the home as a result of this, and other staff have received additional training. This has resulted in children's dignity and welfare being promoted.

Children who are non-verbal and those with additional barriers to communication are supported by the use of a range of communication tools such as Makaton, the Picture Exchange Communication System and electronic devices. Staff ensure that children's wishes, views and feelings are captured and used to inform practice around the quality of care, particularly after significant incidents have taken place. This helps staff to understand the impact of events on children's physical and emotional well-being.

The registered manager and senior leaders actively challenge local authorities when they consider a child's needs are not being met. They ensure that children have independent advocates to champion their rights.

The registered manager and assistant manager have a good oversight of the quality of care and a detailed understanding of strengths and areas of development. They

have high expectations of the staff team and provide challenge and support to drive improvements.

At the last inspection, a requirement was made in relation to improvements needed in the quality of scrutiny from the independent person's visits to the home. The independent person has continued to announce all visits, some up to a week in advance. The independent person is not routinely seeking the views of children's families. As a result, opportunities to improve scrutiny of the home are missed. This requirement is not met and has been restated. All other requirements made at the last inspection have been met.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/04/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/05/2019	Full	Good
26/11/2018	Full	Outstanding
20/04/2017	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, 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 must ensure that an independent person visits the children’s home at least once each month.</p> <p>The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person’s report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person’s opinion as to whether—</p> <p>children are effectively safeguarded; and</p> <p>the conduct of the home promotes children’s well-being.</p> <p>The independent person’s report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions. (Regulation 44 (1) (4)(a)(b)(c))</p> <p>This particularly refers to improvement in the quality of scrutiny by the independent person; reintroduction of unannounced visits; and regularly seeking the views of children’s families. This is a repeated requirement.</p>	<p>30 April 2022</p>

Information about this inspection

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.

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: SC057718

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Together Trust

Registered provider address: The Together Trust Centre, Schools Hill, Cheadle
SK8 1JE

Responsible individual: Jill Sheldrake

Registered manager: Joanne Grime

Inspector

Dawn Parton, Social Care Inspector

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