

SC025712

Registered provider: The Together Trust

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a charitable organisation. The home is registered to care for up to two children who may have emotional and/or social and/or learning disabilities.

The home employs a qualified and experienced registered manager. The manager is also registered to manage another of the organisation's homes.

Due to COVID 19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

Inspection dates: 6 to 7 July 2021

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 29 October 2019

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/10/2019	Full	Good
11/09/2018	Full	Good
08/11/2017	Full	Good
21/02/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children make good progress in relation to their individual starting points. Children develop good relationships with staff with whom they build and sustain positive attachments. A family member reported, '[Child's name]'s been fine. He gets on well with most staff. I am happy with the care provided.'

A child was recently admitted to the home. They have settled in well and have been made to feel welcome. Staff provide children with stability and consistency in their lives.

Staff promote family time for the children. As a result, children spend time with the people who are most important to them. An independent reviewing officer said, 'They have advocated for [child's name] at review meetings in respect of developing his independence and have been supportive with family time and progressing this.'

Children's health needs are met. Staff support children to attend their routine health appointments. They advise children about key health issues and encourage them to live and lead a healthy lifestyle.

Medical consent is in place. Staff are familiar with the types of health decisions and responsibilities that are delegated to them. Children have access to specialist help and support to promote their emotional well-being.

Staff are supportive of children's education. They ensure that children attend school on a regular basis and encourage their learning and progress in education. A social worker said, 'They have supported [child's name]'s engagement with other agencies, such as education and training, and been patient and persevered in respect of supporting [child's name] to access health treatment.'

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

Children's safety is at the centre of staff's practice. Children are kept safe and feel safe. Staff receive training in child protection. They know how to protect children from abuse and all other forms of significant harm. Children are safer because of the actions staff take to protect and support them.

Staff provide children with a homely, caring, supportive and nurturing environment. The accommodation provided for children is nicely decorated, safe, cosy and comfortable.

Risks associated with the children are well known and understood by staff. The use of clear risk management plans and safe working practice promotes the safety and well-being of children.

There are no current issues with children going missing from the home. Children are closely supervised and monitored by staff, in line with their individual plans. Staff look for children if they are absent or go missing. They follow the home's procedures for reporting children missing to secure their safe return.

A social worker said, 'Based on my experience, my view is the home [is] providing good-quality care for [child's name]. There is good communication between staff, mother and the local authority, which benefits [child's name].'

Staff support the children's positive behaviour. Positive behaviour is praised, recognised and reinforced. Consequences are used to address poor behaviour. These measures are fair, balanced and proportionate.

Staff help children to reflect on their feelings and behaviour. The use of restraint is rare. When restraint is used, it is always as a last resort. Restraint is only ever used to protect children from harm.

Significant events are reported to the placing authorities to promote the safety of the children at the home. However, there have been identified occasions when Ofsted has not been informed of significant incidents concerning the children. As a result, a requirement is made in respect of this matter.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Staff are well supported, managed and led. The home is managed by a long-serving, experienced and well-qualified registered manager. A deputy manager is also employed to deputise in the registered manager's absence.

The home's management and leadership demonstrate effective leadership of the day-to-day operations of the home. Staff receive regular practice-related supervision. This supports self-reflection on performance and the ways in which the needs of children are met at the home.

The managers and staff meet the aims and objectives set out in the home's statement of purpose. A stable staff team is employed to meet the specific needs of the children at the home. Staff are well trained, skilled and qualified.

Staff develop strong and effective partnerships with children's social workers, schools and other professional agencies. This ensures that children benefit from the best possible help and all-round support.

The home is visited each month by an independent person. The purpose of the visit is to review the standard and quality of children's care. The reports, however, do not consistently report on how well children are safeguarded and whether their well-being is promoted. Additionally, the reports lack evaluative content and do not

consider the views of stakeholders about the quality of care provided by the home.
A requirement is made to address this issue.

The home has addressed and met the requirements and recommendations from the last inspection.

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 registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child— is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or 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))	6 August 2021
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. 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— children are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being. 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	6 August 2021

consider whether or not to take those actions. (Regulation 44 (1) (4)(a)(b)(c))

This particularly refers to improvement in the quality of scrutiny by the independent person, improvement in the quality of written reports and clarity about the sources of information considered in making safeguarding statements about the home.

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: SC025712

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: Lillian Adamson

Inspector

Anthony Kyem, Social Care Inspector

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