

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	21/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC025712
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	The Together Trust
Registered provider address	The Together Trust Centre, Schools Hill, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 1JE

Responsible individual	Jill Sheldrake
Registered manager	Lillian Adamson
Inspector	Anthony Kyem

Inspection date	21/02/2017
Previous inspection judgement	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 good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness. There have been no new admissions or placement closures since the last inspection. The young person that lives at the home benefits from the safety, security and stability that this placement provides. The young person continues to make good progress taking into account their individual starting points across all aspects of their welfare and physical, social, emotional and behavioural development. The young person knows how to make a complaint and their complaints are addressed effectively by staff. The young person has access to an advocate who can make representations, if needed, on their behalf. The young person has positive relationships with staff who provide them with stability and consistency in their lives. They benefit from well-planned, highly individualised care that promotes their needs effectively and leads change and improvement in their lives. The home has met and addressed the recommendations from the previous inspection. New staff are now in the process of being recruited, and every possible effort is made to provide the young person with continuity of care. This ensures that the young person's attachments are not unnecessarily or unduly disrupted. The manager has involved the young person in the annual appraisal of staff practice. Consequently, they have an improved understanding of the quality of the relationships that exist between young people and staff. Comments the young person made about staff included: 'Nice to be around. Good role model. Can be funny. Good company and someone I can trust.' The young person described the home as being 'fun with nice staff'. The young person reported, 'I like the care. Good assistant and manager. I would rate the home nine and a half out of ten ... I've improved my manners, social skills and staff are consistent.' The young person benefits from a physically safe, appropriately secure, warm, comfortable and homely environment. They feel actively involved in key decisions because staff enable them to contribute to and influence the running of the home. The young person assists staff with the food shopping, cooking and preparation of meals and the general upkeep of the home. They have also been actively involved in the home's recent and ongoing redecoration. The young person has developed a sense of permanence and belonging. Staff promote the young person's positive behaviour and help them to resolve and	

manage their conflicts positively. They understand the triggers for the young person's behaviour and are consistent in their behaviour management approach. They have a good understanding of the young person's specific needs and vulnerabilities and take appropriate action to address them. The use of sanctions is kept to an absolute minimum and restraint, if used at all, is only ever used to protect the young person from harm.

Allegations of abuse are handled quickly and professionally by trained and competent staff. Staff maintain effective partnerships with the police, social workers and all other safeguarding agencies to promote the safety and well-being of young people. Significant incidents are reported to the appropriate authorities to ensure that young people benefit from effective help, protection and support. The young person is kept safe and has developed a strong sense of personal safety.

The performance of the home is scrutinised effectively each month. An independent person scrutinises the home's practices and makes an impartial judgement about the quality of the young person's care and the arrangements to safeguard them and promote their well-being. In addition to the home's internal monitoring activities, there are effective systems to ensure that the strengths of the home are understood, and that its weaknesses are identified so that managers and leaders can take appropriate action to secure improvement. There are effective systems for reviewing and improving the standard and quality of young people's care. There are no breaches in regulation. Consequently, there are no requirements or recommendations made as a result of this interim inspection.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people who may have emotional, behavioural and/or learning disabilities. The home is privately owned and managed.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/09/2016	Full	Good
16/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
02/12/2015	Full	Requires improvement
05/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the 'Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection'.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference that adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other, and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors 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.

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.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service 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'.

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